

THE OLD SLAVE MARKET AT LOUISVILLE, BUILT IN 1758

# HISTORY OF JEFFERSON COUNTY



By MRS. Z. V. THOMAS



Love thou thy land, with love far brought  
From out the storied past, and used  
Within the present, but transfused  
Through future time by power of thought.  
—*Tennyson.*



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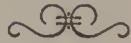


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# FOREWORD.



IN gathering the facts for this little history of Jefferson County, I am indebted to Dr. Lucian Knight State Historian's "Legends and Landmarks of Georgia", Dr. George Smith's "History of Georgia", Evans' "History of Georgia", and to many friends for courtesies in helping me to sources of information. The history is very imperfect and abbreviated, but it is written in the hope that some other pen will record a fuller and more complete account of our grand old county, which was the birthplace of Georgia's legalized capital, and the times following this history-making epoch.

—Z. V. THOMAS.



OLD SLAVE MARKET, LOUISVILLE, GA.



Come, my friends, 'tis not too late  
To seek a newer world—My purpose holds  
To sail beyond the sunset, and the baths of all the  
western stars—

It may be the gulfs will wash us down ;  
It may be we shall touch the Happy Isles  
And see the great Achilles whom we knew  
Tho' much is taken, much abides, and tho'  
We have not now that strength which in old days  
Moved earth and heaven, that which we are, We  
*Are,*

One equal temper of heroic hearts,  
Made weak by time and fate, but strong in will  
To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.

—*Tennyson.*



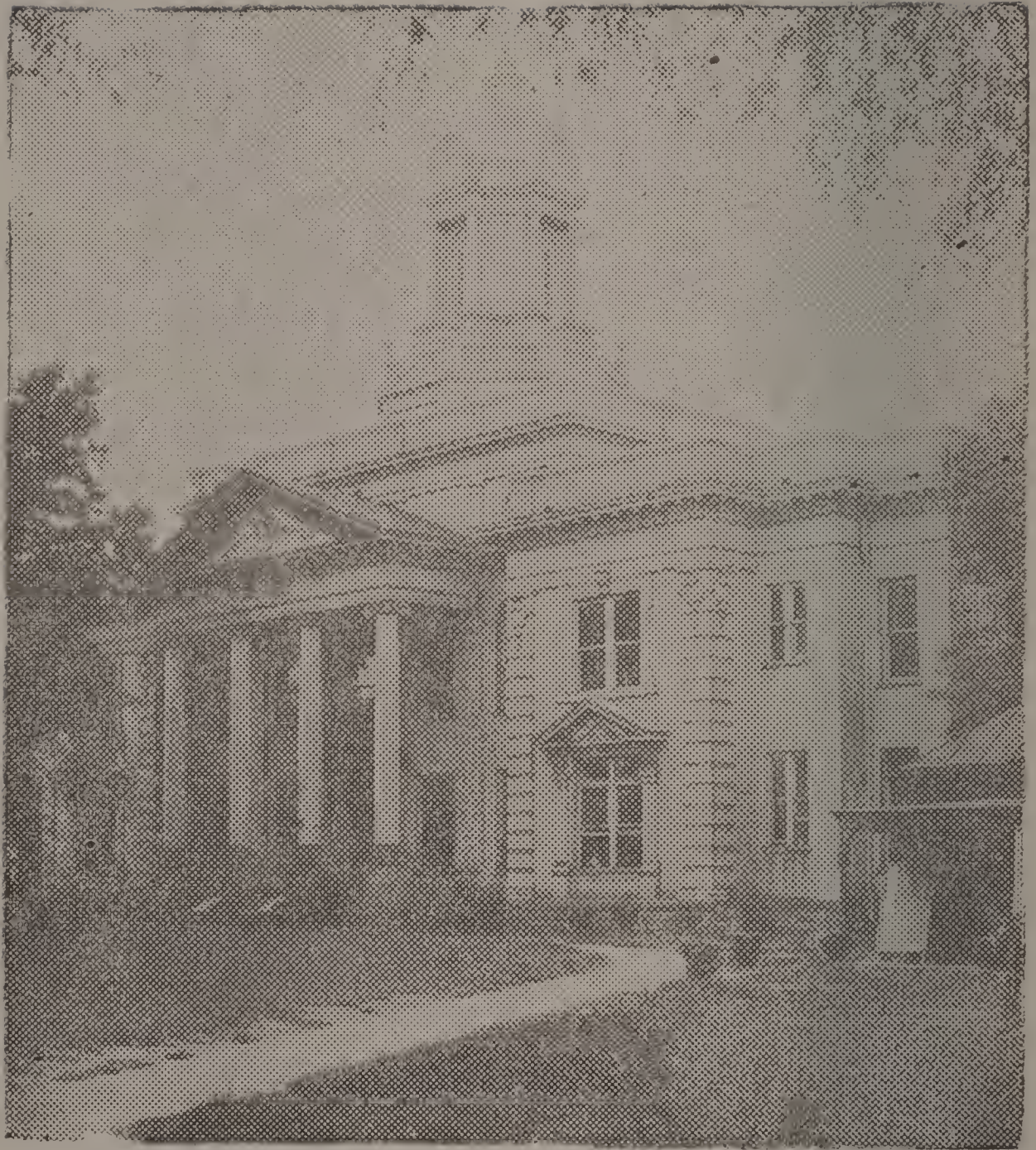
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### JEFFERSON COUNTY COURT HOUSE

Erected in 1907, is built of cream colored brick. The massive white columns and dignified proportions are well suited to its setting in a large oak grove. The late Willis F. Denny, architect, was a Louisville citizen. It is situated on the site of the first capital of Georgia. During excavations for the foundation, old brick and timbers were dug up, and the building outline of the old State House found.

# HISTORY OF JEFFERSON COUNTY



## CHAPTER I

### COLONIZING GEORGIA

OVER in England there was a young officer by the name of Oglethorpe, who had distinguished himself in military service and was elected to parliament. He became interested in prison conditions, and decided that a new country and new surroundings would give many men, who were put in prison for debt, a new opportunity to make good.

He, with some influential friends, petitioned the king for a grant of land in the new country, America, upon which a number of the indigent people around London could be settled. The scheme being approved, the charter of the Colony of Georgia was written and received the great seal of England June 9, 1732.

It has been idly charged that, in the beginning, Georgia's colonists were impecunious, depraved, lawless and abandoned; that the settlement at Savannah was a sort of Botany Bay, and that Yamacraw Bluff was peopled by renegades from justice. This is utterly without foundation. The truth is, no applicant

was admitted to the privileges of enrollment as an emigrant until he had been subjected to an examination and had furnished satisfactory proof that he was fairly entitled to the benefits. Other American colonies were founded by individuals coming at will, without question, and bringing no certificate of present or past conduct. Oglethorpe permitted no one to join his colonists who was not, by competent authority, judged worthy of citizenship.

Four months were devoted to the task of selecting the first settlers for Georgia. Only the best among the needy population of England were taken. No debtor was taken without the consent of his creditor; no criminals were accepted; and no man was received whose object was to desert those dependent upon him for support.

At high noon, on November 16, 1732, the good ship *Anne* spread her white wings and began to plow the Thames on her perilous voyage across the Atlantic. There were thirty-five families on board, numbering one hundred and twenty emigrants, under the personal care of the illustrious Oglethorpe himself. Over two months' time was consumed on the voyage, during which period prayers were offered each morning and evening for Divine guidance that no mishap might overtake the passengers on board. On January 13, 1733, the vessel dipped anchor in the har-



bor of Charleston, and the colonists were given a hearty welcome. It does not detract from the genuineness of this greeting to state that Georgia afterwards became a buffer between South Carolina and her enemies, the Spaniards and Indians. The next stop was at Beaufort, where the immigrants were provided with shelter until Oglethorpe, accompanied by William Bull and Jonathan Bryan, of South Carolina, could visit the future settlement. They made the trip in an Indian canoe, and after winding in and out among the small islands at the mouth of the Savannah River, they saw, some distance up the river, a bluff crowned with pine trees, and at the western end a village, which they afterward learned was called Yamacraw. The chief of the tribe of Indians living in Yamacraw was named Tomo-chi-chi. A trading post had been established there by a man named John Musgrove, whose wife, Mary, was a half-breed. The old chief at first refused to grant the request of the Europeans for land on which to settle but, through the good offices of Mary Musgrove, he finally consented, after which the land was surveyed and the party returned to Beaufort for the colonists.

February 12, 1733, the little band of emigrants reached the bluff on which the infant colony of Georgia was to be cradled. Four large tents were spread.

By sunset the baggage was all ashore. Nightfall came,—prayers of thanksgiving were offered, and under the silent stars was spent the first night on Georgia soil. The leaders among the early colonists at Savannah were: General Oglethorpe, Captain Horton, Henry Parker, John Fallowfield, Col. William Stephens, Patrick Tailfer, Thomas Jones, Thomas Chreistie, Richard Turner, Paul Amatis, James Burnsides, Peter Morel, Hugh Anderson, Anthony Camuse, P. Delegal, Walter Fox, Peter Gordon, James Houston, Samuel Lacy, John Pye, Joseph Wardrope, Thomas Young, the Messrs. Sheftall and De Lyons, Noble Jones, James Habersham, John Milledge and Dr. Nunis.

In the next few months more ships bringing immigrants arrived at Yamacraw, and Savannah was laid out into squares and building lots, and the streets named. The name of the town was changed from Yamacraw to Savannah. The large grant of land to Oglethorpe by King George II. extended from the Savannah River southward along the coast to the Altamaha River, and from the headwaters of these rivers westward, to what is called the South Seas. The country was divided into eight equal parts and was formed into the province of Georgia, named in honor of King George II. Religious liberty was given to the settlers except to those called Papists,

but the church of England was the leading religion.

The country was divided into parishes: Christ Church parish including Savannah; St. Matthew's parish, including Abercorn and Ebenezer; St. George's parish, including Halifax; St. Paul's parish, including Augusta; St. Philip's, including Great Ogeechee; St. John's, including Midway and Sunbury; St. Andrew's, including Darien; and St. James', including Fredrica. These parishes were established in 1758, in order to facilitate and better regulate the government of the colony. Public worship was ordered to be held at each settlement in these parishes. St. George's parish extended from the Ogeechee River on the west to the Savannah River on the east, and out of which, later, was formed Jefferson, Burke and Screven counties.

There was no fairer land in Georgia than that which was included in St. George's parish. Great bodies of cane stretched along the crystal streams in which the bear found his home; on the rich grasses thousands of deer fed; the hills were covered with a magnificent growth; the forests were like a king's park; there were streams and springs. The cattle needed no pasturage except what the woodlands furnished.

It is no wonder that as soon as the land was offered to settlers, they came in great numbers. The

new comer had only to select the place on which he wanted to settle, put down his stakes, and build his cabin. He filed an affidavit with the Governor's Council that he intended to settle in the colony, and an order was given to the surveyor to lay out two hundred acres of land for him, and an extra fifty acres for each additional negro he brought with him. The land was given away. Life with the early settlers was hard at first. There were no roads, and they came with their small supply of needful things on pack horses. The cabins were built of round logs and covered with split boards. At first the floor was of packed clay, the chimneys of sticks and clay. Oftentimes not a nail was used in the building. The furniture was scanty and made by hand. The long gray moss that hung like curtains on the trees in the swamps, furnished the couch for the sleepers. Augusta was the trading post, but very little money was in circulation. By carrying poultry to market, the pioneers secured powder, lead and salt. There was plenty game, and turkeys were so plentiful, they were caught in pens and their flesh dried. Immigration was large; as soon as the news of the rich land was told abroad, many Scotch-Irish people came directly from Ireland and settled in the part of St. George's parish that is now Jefferson County. Some brought over the spinning wheels they used in

Ireland to spin flax, and a few tried to grow flax, but the soil did not suit, or perhaps the rough new land was not adapted to the culture of flax. Ten miles south-east of Louisville stood an old trading post that ante-dates the coming of Oglethorpe to Georgia. The traditions of the locality indicate that at an early period there were Indian traders from South Carolina in this neighborhood, and if not the first Europeans to establish themselves upon the soil of the future colony, they, at least, penetrated further into the interior. George Galphin was one of this adventurous band. He lived at Silver Bluff, on the east side of the Savannah River, where he owned what was, at that time, an elegant mansion.

Galphin carried on an extensive trade with the Indians, and was looked upon by them with awe and respect. They brought to him their disagreements for settlement, and whatever he advised them to do, was the final word on the subject. The trading post which he established on the Ogeechee River was called Galphinton. It was also known as Ogeechee Town, and after Louisville was settled, some ten miles to the north-west, it was commonly called Old Town to distinguish it from New Town, which the residents of the locality gave to the future capital of Georgia. In the course of time there gathered about the old trading post quite a settlement due to the

extensive barter with the Indians which here took place at certain seasons of the year; but time has spared only the barest remnants of the old fort. The following story is told of how George Galphin acquired the land on which the town of Louisville was afterwards built: Attracted by the red coat which he wore, an old Indian chief, whose wits had been sharpened by contact with the traders, approached Galphin in the hope of securing the coveted coat. Said he:

“Me had dream last night.”

“You did?” said Galphin, “what did you dream about?”

“Me dream you give me dat coat.”

“Then you shall have it,” said Galphin, and immediately suited the action to the word by transferring to him the coat.

Quite a while passed before the old chief returned to the post, but when he again appeared in the settlement, Galphin said, “Chief, I dreamed about you last night.”

“Ugh”, he grunted, “what did you dream?”

“I dreamed you gave me all the land in the fork of this creek”, pointing to one of the tributary streams of the Ogeechee.

“Well”, said the chief, “you take it, but we no more dream.”

There is every reason to believe that the old trading post at Galphinton was in existence when the state was first colonized. The settlement which gradually developed around it may have arisen later, but historians are not in accord upon this point. There were sundry settlers scattered among the Indians, and it is probable Mr. Galphin had around his settlement at Galphinton some of his countrymen before Oglethorpe came. As early as the time of Governor Reynolds, in 1752, there were grants made to men in the part of St. George's parish that is now Jefferson County. Beyond question, Galphinton was the first locality established in Georgia by white men for commerce. At Galphinton, in 1758, a treaty was made between the state of Georgia and the Creek Indians, whereby the latter agreed to surrender to the State the famous "Tallehassee Strip", between the Altamaha River and the St. Mary's; but the compact was repudiated by the Creeks under McGillivray who was leader in the long protracted Oconee War. By a treaty, in 1790, this strip was confirmed to the Indians, but in 1814, as a penalty for siding with the British in the war of 1812, the Indians were forced to cede it to the whites.

Some eight miles to the north-west of Galphinton, a trading post was established about the year 1769 by a band of Scotch-Irish settlers, who called the

place Queensboro, in honor of Queen Anne. It was located in an angle made by the Ogeechee River with a large creek which enters the stream at this point. This creek is Rock Comfort, which flows by Louisville. The locality was somewhat elevated and seemed to meet two requirements; a stronghold that could be made secure from Indian assaults, and healthy. In the immediate vicinity there was estimated to be at one time two hundred families. It was sometimes called the Irish Settlement, or Irish Reserve, because the majority of the settlers were Irish, and most of them came directly or indirectly from the North of Ireland. George Galphin and John Rae were instrumental in getting them a reservation of fifty thousand acres of land which bordered on the Ogeechee River. They were Presbyterians by faith. The town survived for a number of years, but when Louisville arose two miles off, it gradually declined in population until it finally ceased to exist. It was not until the Battle of Lexington that the Scotch-Irish settlers at Queensboro, in the parish of St. George, renounced allegiance to the crown of England. The reasons for the strong loyalist sentiment which prevailed in this part of the province were numerous.

The settlers lived on the frontier, constantly exposed to Indian attacks. They needed the protec-



tion of England. Quite a few were wealthy planters, who possessed large estates; moreover, they resented a condition of affairs which were laid at the doors of the Puritans of Boston, and did not see why Georgia should become a party to New England's quarrel. So, following the famous meeting at Tondee's Tavern in Savannah, August 10, 1774, a protest meeting was held, in which the resolutions adopted at Savannah were condemned as reflecting improperly on the King of England and Parliament. This was signed by the freeholders and earliest settlers of what is now Jefferson County.

Jefferson County was laid out from Burke and Warren Counties in 1796, and was named for Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence and President of the United States from 1801 to 1809. It lies in the eastern part of the state, and is bounded on the north and east by Richmond and McDuffie counties; on the west by Washington, and on the north-west by Glascock and Warren; on the south by Johnson and Emanuel. The Ogeechee River flows through the county and before the Central Railroad was built, was the principal medium of communication with Savannah. The surface of the land is elevated, gently rolling, giving fine drainage, splendid for farming. Being an old county, the soil has been reduced in fertility by in-

judicious farming, but the introduction of scientific methods in the last few years has restored much of the land to its primitive productiveness. Crops can be produced everywhere. The main crops are cotton, corn, peanuts, peas, velvet beans, grain of every kind, potatoes,—sweet and Irish,—tobacco, berries, and fruits of many kinds. Indeed, it would be difficult to mention anything belonging to this latitude that cannot be successfully grown in Jefferson County. Since the appearance of the boll weevil, farmers have diversified their crops, and give much attention to many products which are putting money into the homes. Lumber manufacturing has assumed immense proportions, and there are several mills in the county. Planting pecan groves is making a future bright with promise. Much hardwood timber is shipped in round logs to various manufacturing plants. There are several farms of dewberries, whose owners enjoy a nice profit from their sales. Nearly every kind of fruit, except tropical, can be grown, and the swamps furnish a variety of wild fruits and nuts. The principal minerals are shell marl, limestone, burrstone, agate and chalcedony. There are several mineral springs. On the line of Burke and Jefferson in south-eastern section there is a big spring that covers nearly a quarter of an acre, and boils up in several places, a clear stream

of pure limestone water, with force enough to turn a mill. Near this spring there was a stone quarry operated by a Mr. Burr, but it has long since fallen into disuse.

Several fine streams of water are scattered over the county. Ogeechee River runs entirely through the county, from west to east, and has many tributaries. Briar Creek marks part of boundary line between Jefferson, McDuffie, Richmond and Burke; Rocky Comfort, Big Creek, Reedy Creek, and Williamson Creek are the largest streams, while numerous small streams abound. The Ogeechee River is navigable to Louisville. Near Wrens on the farm of Mr. John Radford, a bed of clay has been discovered which contains flint and pebbles, useful in making road-beds, streets, and for ballast on railroad tracks. The stratum is about twelve feet deep and covers several acres. It yields about nine hundred cars per acre, and valued at six and seven hundred dollars for the acre.

The school system of the county is advancing rapidly to the most practical and far-reaching plans which have matured in the minds of the best thinkers of the state. Consolidated schools are the rule, and the county is divided into school districts which have completed, or have in construction, the most modern and best equipped school buildings it is possible to plan.

The last census gives the county a population of twenty-two thousand six hundred and two, with an area of six hundred forty-six square miles. It is near the central eastern part of Georgia, and is nearly twice as long as wide. The Central railroad runs through the southern part, the Georgia and Florida traverses the northern portion, the Savannah and Northwestern runs north and south from Savannah to Camack, while a short line operates between Louisville and Wadley. This short railroad has the distinction of a Sabbath observance, a train never having been run on Sunday since the road was built and yet it is on a paying basis.

The old Indian trails leading from Louisville, Milledgeville and other points to Savannah and Augusta, are now splendid automobile highways.

The county uses the prisoners to work the public roads, and provides a permanent home on the highway between Louisville and Wrens where good order, neat homes, with sanitary conveniences, and electric lights, mitigate the ignominy of their penalties. A home for the destitute and old is also provided by the county, which is largely self-sustaining.

The Dixie Highway goes through the county, passing through Louisville on to Savannah, and the Jefferson Davis Highway is routed from Wrightsville through Bartow, to intersect the Dixie at Bos-

tick's Mill, passing on to Louisville, Wrens and Augusta.

There are several historic churches in the county. Ways Church, one of the oldest, first called Darcy's meeting house, near Stellaville, was constituted May 15, 1817. The oldest church in the county, perhaps, is Old Bethel, constituted May 9, 1795. These churches were originally congregations belonging to the anti-Missionary Baptist church, but education and a broader love for humanity made a split among the members. The antis withdrew, and the Missionary Baptist church began her world-wide program. Ebenezer Church, on the road from Louisville to Wrens, Presbyterian, is another old church. Mt. Moriah, Methodist, in extreme northern part of the county, is noted for its camp meetings held every summer, including the third Sunday in August, where thousands assemble to hear the greatest pulpit orators in the Methodist church. Here Bishop Pierce and his father used to preach, and here friends and old acquaintances met to renew friendships and memories of other days.

The leading denominations are Methodists and Baptists with Presbyterians in central part of county, Primitive Baptists in southern, and a few other denominations scattered over the county. Churches for these congregations are accessible, and every

section is blessed with some church as a community center. The Scotch-Irish Presbyterians had congregations before the Revolution, but churches were not erected. The Rev. Mr. Ronaldson was pastor, but was a Royalist and was taken captive. After being released he left Georgia and never returned. After the war ended, the Presbyterians sent to Ireland and secured a pastor, Rev. David Bothwell, who came to Queensboro in 1790. His congregation was large and embraced a large scope of country. Here he labored for many years, and died at the residence of General Jared Irwin, in Washington County, and was buried there in the family burial ground in June, 1801, aged forty-five years. He was a man of medium size, rather stout, and was a clear, forceful speaker.

The Methodists and Baptists came after the war of the Revolution and so remarkably have they increased, that their followers exceed all others in numbers.

In the southern part of the county, Gen. Solomon Wood lived. His home was built on a high knoll a mile east of Bartow, on the farm now owned by Mr. J. R. O. Smith. Here he built a block house for the protection of the people from Indian raids, and had a bell made; the shape of this bell is like those used for cow bells, and it could be heard about two miles.

When signs of Indian trouble were seen or heard the bell would peal out its warning, and the people would seek safety in the fort. General Wood was a Revolutionary soldier. He lived to a goodly old age, but fell from a wagon while making a trip to Augusta or Savannah to exchange produce for plantation supplies, and sustained a broken leg, which caused blood poison from which he died. He is buried on the high knoll near the old home site and his grave is marked by a simple stone. His sons continued to live there, until one of the overseers began to use guano, when they said if the land was too poor to make a crop without guano, they would move away. They sold the place to Mr. Spier, who in turn sold it to Mr. Samuel Tarver, father of the late Judge A. E. Tarver. The bell was sold each time with the place, and is now in possession of Mr. S. B. Tarver, son of Judge Tarver. It has seen many changes. When its career began, this part of Georgia was almost primeval forest. Indians were numerous, and made the life of the settlers days of agony and nights of dread, unless they were fortunate enough to make peace treaties with the chiefs; and even then, some unruly warrior would slip away at times to hold a war dance with himself, as he stealthily slipped up on some unprotected home and left a wife and child with bleeding scalps, to tell an

awful story to the returning husband and father. Later, the bell was used on the farm of Judge Tarter to mark the beginning of the day's work, and to call the hands in to dinner. It has been laid aside now for years, but is a living link which ties the present to a historic past.

South of General Wood's fort, across Williamson Creek, a party of Indians surprised a home and killed the father. They scalped and carried off his daughter, but were overtaken by a band of whites, hastily assembled, and a battle was fought not far from the J. J. Polhill place. The Indians were defeated and several killed. The girl was rescued and afterwards recovered and married a Mr. Eason. She lived to a goodly old age, and was the grandmother of Mrs. Uriah Anderson, whose home, near Old Bethel Church, is now owned by Mr. Ben Kitchens.

Few counties have sent forth a greater number of good citizens whose descendants have scattered into nearly every part of the world. Jefferson has been more famous for its large planters than for its public men, but it has produced not a few of distinction.

Ex-Governor Johnston was a citizen of Jefferson County. He was a native of Burke County, born September 18, 1812; graduated from the University of Georgia; practiced law in Augusta a short time,



then moved to Jefferson County, and was early mentioned as a youthful giant who fought with burnished steel. He was twice governor of Georgia, a senator in the United States Congress, judge of superior court, nominated for Vice-president of the Confederate States, and was a member of the famous Georgia convention which met in Milledgeville January 16, 1861, to decide whether or not Georgia should secede from the Union. After the war, he was again elected with Alexander Stephens to the United States Senate, but they were not allowed to take their seats because Georgia had not complied with all the requirements put on her by the Federal government, chief among which was ratifying the fourteenth amendment, conferring citizenship on the negroes, so lately slaves.

Ex-Governor Johnston doubted the wisdom of secession, and took no active part in affairs during the war. He returned to his plantation, near Bartow, and to his home, Sandy Grove, which was filled with many interesting things connected with his eventful life. He was serving as judge of the superior court when he died. Judge Johnston was famous for his power as a platform speaker, for his deep devotion to his friends and intense hatred of his foes. He married a Miss Polk, a niece of Pres. James K. Polk. Governor Johnston is buried in

what is called the New Cemetery in Louisville. A monument marks his grave, having on it the simple inscription; "Ex-Governor Herschel V. Johnston, Born in Burke County, Ga., Sept. 18, 1812; Died in Jefferson County, Ga., Aug. 16, 1880."

Hugh Lawson, whose father came into Georgia from North Carolina before the Revolution, a captain in the Revolution, one of the commissioners for the sale of confiscated property and for selecting the place for a State-house, and one of the trustees of the University, was brought up in this county.

Judge Roger Lawson Gamble, who was a member of Congress, long lived in Louisville.

Chesley and Littleberry Bostwick, both officers in the Revolution, lived in the county; also the Cobbs, Lamars, Rootes and Flournoys. Capt. James Meriwether, a brave Revolutionary soldier from Virginia, died in this county October 25, 1817. Gen. George Stapleton, another Revolutionary hero, a Virginian by birth, settled in the county and reared a large family. He died May 30, 1832.

Maj. John Berrien, father of the Hon. John M. Berrien, at the dawn of the Revolution visited Georgia, and at the age of fifteen was appointed a lieutenant in the First Georgia Regiment, and was promoted to a captaincy in the same. When General McIntosh was appointed to a command in the

Northern army, Major Berrien was selected by him as brigade major, and in that capacity he joined the grand army at Valley Forge. He was wounded at the battle of Monmouth and decorated by Washington with the order of Cincinnati, and later became president of the Georgia branch of this organization. The emblem of this order was an eagle. Major Berrien was born in the famous Berrien mansion, near Princeton, N. J., from which Washington issued his farewell orders to his army at the close of hostilities. He lived several years in Louisville, but died in Savannah.

Benjamin Whitaker, speaker of the Georgia House of Representatives for a long time, lived and died in Jefferson County. United States Senator Gunn also lived in Louisville, and is buried in the old cemetery there.

Governor Howell Cobb and Gen. T. R. R. Cobb were natives of Jefferson, but were reared in Clark County. Howell Cobb, Sr., an uncle of the Governor, resided in Jefferson. He was a member of Congress 1807-1811.

One of the early settlers of Jefferson was Ambrose Wright. His son, Major General A. R. Wright, became an officer of high rank in the Confederate Army, and an officer of distinction. The present Comptroller-General of Georgia, William

A. Wright, who has held this office for thirty-six years, is a grandson. A brother of Gen. A. R. Wright, Col. H. G. Wright, was a native of Jefferson and has several descendants living in Louisville.

Daniel Hook, an eminent pioneer minister of the Church of the Disciples, resided for several years at Louisville, where his distinguished son, Judge James S. Hook, Commissioner of Education, jurist and scholar, was born.

The celebrated Patrick Carr, who is said to have killed one hundred Tories with his own hand, lived and died in Jefferson. He said he would have made a good soldier, but the Lord made him too merciful.

Among the other soldiers of the War of Independence who came from this immediate vicinity were: Gen. Solomon Wood, a captain in the Revolution, afterwards a general of militia; Aaron Thomlinson, an officer under General Green; Chesley Bostwick and Littleberry Bostwick, both officers; Seth Pearce and William Lyon. Chief-Justice James Jackson, a grandson of the old governor, was a native of Jefferson. Here also lived Brigadier-General Reuben W. Carswell, a distinguished Confederate soldier and a jurist of note. Dr. Tilman Dixon, of Louisville, was a student at Richmond Academy during General Washington's visit to

Georgia, and being an honor boy, received an autographed book from the General.

Capt. James Meriwether and George L. Stapleton, Sr., were Revolutionary patriots, and served their country with honor and distinction. John Peel, and an old patriot by the name of King, whose grave in the old cemetery at Louisville is said to be in a neglected condition, were also Revolutionary heroes of Jefferson County.

In 1810 the population of the county was 3,775 free, and 2,336 slaves; in 1830, 3,662 free and 2,647 slaves, and in 1850, 3,717 free and 5,637 slaves. As the records show, the number of slaves increased rapidly after the invention of the cotton gin by Eli Whitney in 1792. The owners of large plantations moved to the cities and left the farms in charge of overseers, who cultivated mostly cotton, the work being done by the slaves. The history of the invention of the cotton gin is as follows: Eli Whitney, at the time of inventing the cotton gin, was a guest at Mulberry Grove, near Savannah, Ga., the home of Gen. Nathaniel Green, of Revolutionary fame. After the death of the General, his widow married Phineas Miller, tutor to Gen. Green's children, and a friend and college mate of Whitney's. The ingenuity of the Yankee visitor, as exhibited in various amateur devices and tinkering

about the premises, inspired the family with such confidence in his skill that, on one occasion when Mrs. Miller's watch was out of order, she gave it to Mr. Whitney for repair, no professional watchmaker being within reach. Not long after this a gentleman called at the house to exhibit a fine sample of cotton wool, and incidentally remarked while displaying the sample "There is a fortune in store for some one who will invent a machine for separating the lint from the seed." Mrs. Miller, who was present, turned to Whitney and said, "You are the very man, Mr. Whitney, for since you succeeded so well with my watch, I am sure you have ingenuity enough to make such a machine".

After this conversation, Mr. Whitney shut himself closely in his room for several weeks, and at the end of this time he invited the family to inspect his model for a cotton gin. It was constructed with wire teeth on a revolving cylinder. However there was no contrivance for throwing off the lint. Mrs. Miller, seeing the difficulty, seized a common clothes brush, applied it to the teeth, and caught the lint. Whitney, with delight exclaimed, "Madam, you have solved the problem. With this suggestion my machine is complete".

In 1828 Mr. John Schley went to Philadelphia and bought from Alfred Jenks, of Bridesburg,

Penn., the first machinery for making cotton bagging and spinning yarns ever brought to Georgia. The machines were shipped to Savannah, and hauled by wagon two hundred miles to the interior of the state into Jefferson County. There, on Reedy Creek, Mr. Schley established his factory. The journey from Louisville to Philadelphia took Mr. Schley six weeks of constant travel on what was then known as the Alligator line of stage coaches. In his factory Mr. Schley ran four looms for weaving cotton bagging, making from 300 to 400 yards a day. Of yarns, he spun from 200 to 300 pounds per day. For this he received from \$1.00 to \$1.50 a pound; the market being among the country people who worked it up into homespuns. In 1834 Mr. Schley moved his factory to Richmond County, and named the new site Bellville.

In 1777, in the city of Savannah, the first Constitution of the State of Georgia was adopted. Among other things provided for the welfare of the citizens was the requirement, that schools should be provided in every county in the state.

In 1786 Governor Telfair was elected governor of Georgia. The law-making powers had assembled alternately in Savannah and Augusta, but these places were so distant for representatives from the northern section of the state to reach, that Governor

Telfair appointed three commissioners to select a place for the state capital, as follows: Nathan Brownson, William Few, and Hugh Lawson. These men were also to provide for the erection of a building for the various departments, and for establishing a State University. The capital and university were to be in twenty miles of Galphinton which was at that time near the center of population in Georgia. The town was to be called Louisville. It was named Louisville, for Louis XVI. of France. The commissioners were authorized to buy one thousand acres of land and to lay out a part thereof for a town which should be known by the name of Louisville. Various causes hindered the completion of these plans—lack of sufficient funds, and the death of the contractor during the construction of the State House; but finally, in the Constitution of 1795, the new town was designated as the permanent capital. Forty acres had been laid out in squares and streets, patterned after the city of Philadelphia, and the lots sold at auction. The first report of the commissioners was made in 1791, another in 1792, and still another in 1793, all of which reports show the hindrances that had been met. The contractor, who died during the building of the state house, was Reuben Coleman. Also suits had been filed against the commissioners but finally, with help given by the



legislature, they promised to have the work finished in two months. This state house was ten years in construction, and was the first one built by the state. The houses used in Savannah and Augusta were rented. In 1796 the seat of government was moved to Louisville, and Jefferson County was laid out.

The first session of the legislature was held in Louisville in 1796. It is not known exactly when the last session was held there, but a report of the Acts of the Legislature printed in Louisville, in 1805, records an act passed at Louisville December 2, 1804, to make the town of Milledgeville the permanent seat of government of this State, and to dispose of a certain number of lots therein. Louisville must, therefore, have been the capital as late as 1805, as it evidently took months, at least, to erect the buildings, and to prepare the town of Milledgeville for the purpose.

When the capital was removed to Milledgeville, the state house was turned over to the county of Jefferson. It was used for some years for the county court house, but finally it became so dilapidated, that it was necessary to replace it with another. This, in 1904, was in turn replaced by one of the handsomest court house buildings in the state, at a cost of fifty thousand dollars. Louisville was not very prosperous after the capital was moved to Milledge-

ville, until the Louisville and Wadley Railroad was built, about 1875, connecting the town with the Central Railroad at Wadley. The *Louisville Gazette*, founded in 1796, was one of the pioneer newspapers of Georgia. The handsome oak press used in publishing the *Gazette*, was bought in England. It was afterwards sold to the *Georgia Messenger* of Macon. According to a local authority, when the present court house was built, an excavation was made which disclosed the foundation of the old State Capitol; and by a singular coincidence, this corresponded exactly with the plans for the new edifice.

Among the early settlers were William Hardwick, John Fulton, the Clemmons, Pattersons, Roger and Hugh Lawson, William Gamble, Captain Haddon, Captain Connley, Andrew Berryhill, the Shellmans, John Berrien, the Hamptons and the Whiteheads. Most of these came from North Carolina, Virginia, and North Ireland. Among the latter were Hugh Alexander, James Harvey, Z. Albritton, Charles Harvey, Thomas Atkinson, Garland Hardwick, Dave Alexander, Joseph Hampton, Henry G. Caldwell, Esq., D. Hancock, Isaac Coleman, William Hannah, Isaac Dubose, W. P. Hardwick, Marth Dorton, G. W. Hardwick, David Douglas, John Ingram, George Evers, George Ingram, John Evans, William Kenedy, R. Fleming, John Land, R. Flour-

noy, William Lowry, John Finley, Samuel Little, John Green, James Meriwether, R. Gray, John Martin, John Maynard, William Peel, Jesse Paulett, Love Sandford, Robert Prior, Henry Tucker, Jesse Purvis, Andrew Thompson, John Reese, Benjamin Warren, Jesse Slatter, John Warnock, M. Shellman. All these received grants of land in the county.

Along the banks of the Ogeechee and on the numerous creeks were large bodies of fine oak and hickory land, and away from them were wide areas of pine forests. The first industry of the people was stock raising, and little else was attempted for several years. Then some tobacco was planted and a tobacco warehouse built, located on the Ogeechee, a few miles from Louisville.

The climate of Jefferson County is mild. Lands are increasing in value.

Instances of longevity are the following: When the census of 1850 was taken, there were living Hannah Young, aged 80; Abraham Beasley, 81; Ann Justice, 92; Margaret Stapleton, 82; Joseph Price, 82; Patty Collins, 92; Sarah Worrell, 81; James Gunn, 81; Mary Patterson, 98; Nancy Davis, 92; Sarah Marshall, 82; James Sherod, 81; Jane Neely, 82; Mille Pierce, 92; Rachel Gordon, 91.

Most of the early settlers of Jefferson were pa-

triot's of the Revolution. Following are some names of those who received land grants prior to the Revolution, and settled in the township of Queensboro. Most of these were emigrants from North Ireland, as follows: Z. Albritton, John Allen, David Alexander, Hugh Alexander, Matthew Barr, Samuel Barren, Thomas Atkinson, John Bartholomew, Mitchel and Thomas Beatty, James Blair, James and John Boggs, James Breckinridge, John Brown, William Brown, John Bryant, John Bushby, John Campbell, John Cary, John Chambers, Alexander Chestnut, Isaac Coleman, George Cook, Robert Cooper, John Crozier, John Dickson, M. Dorton, Isaac Dubose, David Douglas, Robert Duncan, John Evans, John Finley, James Fleming, Robert Fleming, Samuel Fleming, Richard Fleeting, John Gamble, Robert Gervin, John Gilmore, R. Gray, John Green, David Green, James Haden, Joseph Hampton, D. Hancock, Robert Hanna, William Hanna, William Harding, Garland Hardwick, C. W. Hardwick, W. P. Hardwick, James Harris, Sherrill Hartley, James Harvey, James Hogg, Henry Hurd, John Ingram, David Irwin, Isabella Irwin, Joseph Johnson, John Kenedy, Isaac Laremore, Henry Lewis, Samuel Little, Matthew Lyle, Samuel McAlister, John McClinigan, Elizabeth McClinigan, William McConky, William McCreery, James

McCroan, Thomas McCroan, Patrick McCullough, B. McCullers, Patrick McGee, Adam McIlroy, James and John McKelvey, Moses McMichean, James McMichean, Daniel McNeill, John Mack, Patrick Mackay, William Mackay, John Martin, John Maynard, James Meriwether, Robert Miller, John Mineely, Andrew and Matthew Moore, Adam Morrison, John Murdock, Arthur O'Neil, Jesse Paulett, John and Richard Peel, Robert Prior, Jesse Purvis, John Reese, Clotworthy Robson, James Rogers, Robert and Edward Rogers, David Russel, Robert Sampson, William Sampson, Love Sandford, Joseph Saunders, John Scott, M. Shellman, James Simpson, George Thompson, Jesse Slatter, William S. Kelley, Walker Stevens, Edward and George Thompson, John Todd, John Toland, James Tonkin, Henry Tucker, Esther Tweedy, John Warnock, Robert Warnock, Benjamin Warren, John Wilson, Seb Witherup, Thomas Wolfington, James Gunn, Moses Newton, William Walker, and James Corvan.

Following the famous meeting at Tondee's Tavern, Savannah, when, on August 10, 1774, resolutions were adopted looking toward severing allegiance with Great Britain, a protest was entered from the Parish of St. George Sept. 28, 1774, condemning the action of this meeting, and signed by the greater

number of settlers of St. George's Parish. Despite the protest, delegates from this parish were sent to the Provincial Congress which met in Savannah July 4, 1775, at which time the tie of allegiance to England was severed; and throughout the Revolution the Parish of St. George was the abode of the most intense loyalty, to the patriotic cause, and the theater of some of the most tragic engagements.

It was at Louisville in 1798, that the celebrated convention met, which framed the State Constitution under which Georgia lived for seventy years. Similar gatherings had been held in 1789 and 1795, but few amendments were made to the original Constitution of 1777. Previous to this, at a session of the legislature in 1789, provision was made by an amendment to the Constitution, to remedy any defects. This convention met in Louisville in May, 1795. Noble Wimberly Jones, of Savannah, was elected president and the session lasted three weeks.

The seat of government was moved from Augusta to Louisville at this time, and several constitutional changes made. General James Jackson was elected governor of Georgia in 1798. He was the idol of the people, and his administration was distinguished by the adoption of the great Constitution of 1798, framed by the convention which met in Louisville in May, 1798. This convention was composed of the

greatest men in Georgia, men who had steered the Ship of State successfully through the recent trying years. In the two previous conventions, of 1789 and 1795, the law-makers had imbedded in the organic law a provision debarring ministers of the gospel from membership in the General Assembly of Georgia. Another resolution to the same effect was proposed at this time; but the great Baptist divine, Jesse Mercer, was on hand to challenge the propriety of such an action. When the resolution was introduced, he at once proposed to amend by excluding also doctors and lawyers. He succeeded in making the whole affair so ridiculous that the matter was finally dropped; and since 1798 the legislative doors have swung wide open to representatives of the cloth. It was in May of 1798 that the Constitutional Convention met in Louisville, and elected Jared Irwin president. It remained in session three weeks and the task of considering the Constitution which the state required, after the Constitution of the United States was adopted, was perfected, duly signed, and became the fundamental law of Georgia. At this session the Yazoo papers were burned.

The State Legislature again met in Louisville the second Monday in June 1799. The twenty-four counties of the state were represented by twenty-four senators and seventy-five representatives. An

interesting measure was the adoption of the great seal of the state. The seal adopted was a circular disc, several inches in diameter; on one side a view of the seashore, with a ship bearing the flag of the United States, riding at anchor near a wharf, receiving on board hogsheads of tobacco and bales of cotton, emblematic of the exports of the state; at a little distance, a boat landing from the interior of the state with hogsheads, boxes, etc., representing internal traffic; in the background, a man plowing and a flock of sheep under the shade of a tree. The motto on this side "AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE" 1799. On the reverse side three pillars supporting an arch, with the word "CONSTITUTION" engraved on it, as the emblem of the Constitution, sustained by the three departments of the government. The words, "WISDOM, JUSTICE, and MODERATION," were engraved on a wreath around these pillars, one word on each pillar, and near the left-hand pillar, a man with a drawn sword represented the military defense of the state. The inscription on this side of the seal, "STATE OF GEORGIA" 1799.

This great seal was adopted October 8, 1799, and when made it was deposited in the office of the Secretary of the State, to be attached to all official papers of the State. The old seal was formally broken in the presence of the governor. Quite a



romance attaches to the history of this great seal adopted by the convention in Louisville in 1799.

Since the granting of Georgia's Colonial Charter, in 1732, there have been three great seals which had to be affixed to the most important official transactions; first, the Colonial Seal or Seal of the Trustees; second, the Provincial Seal or Seal of the Royal Governors; third, the Great Seal of 1799 which is still in vogue, linking the Georgia of to-day with the Georgia of the eighteenth century, and putting us in touch with the closing scenes of the American Revolution. This great seal was adopted by the State February 8, 1799, and, except for a brief period during the days of Reconstruction, it has been constantly in use for more than one hundred years. On account of its extreme age it now makes a very indistinct impression and needs to be retouched by the skillful hands of an engraver.

This seal consists of two solid plates of silver, each of which is a quarter of an inch thick, by two inches and a quarter in diameter. It is kept in the office of the Secretary of the State. It was first used July 4, 1799. To use the Great Seal, wax is rolled into thin wafers, gilt paper, cut circular in form, the exact size of the die, with serrated edges, is next laid upon each side of the wax wafer; and, at the same time, ribbons are inserted between the

wafer and paper discs. This done, the wafer is placed between the plates of the disc and stamped tightly, leaving the devices imprinted on either side of the soft wax and revealed, like an engraving, on the gilded paper, which is attached by narrow ribbons to the document of the State, forming what is known as a wax pendant. The custom of attaching seals to official documents is extremely ancient, dating back to earliest manuscripts of record in the oldest states of the Union; but a method of stamping which cuts an impression in the paper to be attested is now the custom, and naturally the use of the wax wafer by means of ribbons has become obsolete. Georgia is the only state that follows the old custom. It takes twenty minutes to attach the Great Seal to a document, and is used only on documents of extraordinary character, viz: charters, land grants and commissions to public servants including Governors, State House officials, Judges of Supreme Courts, and Solicitors-General. It is also used in attesting every official paper going out of the State, but for ordinary transactions the Seal of the Secretary of the State is employed.

In an old issue of the *Louisville Gazette*, dated February 26, 1799, there was an executive order, signed by Thomas Johnson, Secretary to Governor James Jackson, calling on all the artists of the world

to submit drawings for the proposed new Great Seal of the State. An outline sketch was furnished according to the terms of the Act, approved February 8, 1799, and a premium of thirty dollars was offered. The drawings were to be lodged in the Executive Office at Louisville on or before April 20, 1799. At the same time proposals were to be submitted for making and engraving the device, and July 3, 1799, was fixed as a limit to complete the contract. Daniel Sturgis, State Surveyor General, made the device approved by the Governor for the Great Seal, but the most elegant drawing was sent by one, Charles Frazer, of South Carolina, who was only sixteen years old. He would have obtained the premium but made a mistake by placing all the figures on one side, instead of making a reverse. This Great Seal has never left the borders of the State of Georgia, though the impression on the minds of a great many is otherwise, attributing to Governor Charles Jenkins the rescue of Georgia's precious heirloom from the hands of military usurpers. The instrument of office which Governor Jenkins bore into exile for safe keeping, was the Seal of the Executive Department. The Legislature awarded to this noble old Roman a facsimile of this Seal executed in gold, with the inscription, *In arduis fidelis*. The Great Seal was in the custody of Hon. Nathan

C. Barnett throughout the entire period known as the Carpetbag Regime. He secretly moved it from the State Capitol to his home in Milledgeville. When Sherman, in his march through Georgia, reached Milledgeville he had Mr. Barnett arrested and ordered him to surrender the Great Seal, which he refused to do, stating that he would die before he would betray his trust. He was put in prison, but refused to tell where it was. When Georgia resumed her rightful place in the Union, Colonel Barnett restored the Great Seal. He had secretly buried it under his house at dead of night, telling no one but his wife.

In the Reconstruction days which followed the Civil War, another effort was made to find the Great Seal, as some pretense of legal form was needed to give authority to fraudulent transactions, so an imitation seal was substituted. No expense was spared by the Bullock administration to counterfeit the Great Seal, but when the contrivance was finished, it bore upon its reverse side the bar sinister. At first the difference was not noticed, but in the course of time it was found that the soldier standing between the pillars, "Justice" and "Moderation", held his sword in his left hand, while in the original he held it in his right hand.

The Judiciary system of the state was revised at

the session of the legislature in 1798, and the state divided into three judicial circuits—the Eastern, Middle, and Western. Jefferson County was in the middle circuit, and George Walton was elected judge. These judges of the Superior Court were to be elected by the general assembly every third year, and were required to alternate in the circuits so that no two terms of court in the same county should be held by the same judge successively. The courts were held twice a year in each county, and each court had a clerk and sheriff. The office of Attorney-General was vested in one person for each circuit. There was no supreme court, but the judges of each circuit were required to meet annually in Louisville, on the second Monday in July, to make rules for the government of the Superior Courts, and to determine such points of law as were reserved for agreement, and to give opinions on constitutional questions referred to them by the Executive. Another class of courts were called Inferior Courts. These were also held twice a year, in each county. The officers were appointed by the general assembly and were subject to the rules governing the superior court. Justice courts were held monthly in each county and had jurisdiction in suits not exceeding thirty dollars. The justices were appointed by the Inferior Courts. Greater simplicity in pleading was

provided for, and all defects in form could be remedied on motion. Another act at this session provided that the general election should be held the first Monday in October, and the voting should be by ballot. Members of Congress should be elected every two years. The time of the meeting of the general assembly was changed from January to the first Monday in November. The population of Georgia had increased to about one hundred and sixty-three thousand, whites and blacks. Cotton cultivation was becoming popular, since the invention of the cotton gin by Eli Whitney. Previous to this invention, the seed was picked out by hand, neighbors meeting at a specified home at night and having pleasant social times while working at the cotton in which the young and the old joined.

At this time the literature of Georgia was in its infancy. Only six academies had been incorporated in the state: Savannah, Augusta, Louisville, Sunbury, and one each in Burke and Wilkes Counties. The treaty to ratify the boundaries of Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi was approved and duly signed by the legislature in Louisville in 1802. Judge George Walton, Judge of the Middle circuit, died at his home in Augusta February 2, 1802, and Benjamin Shrine was appointed in his place. As Louisville had proved to be unhealthy, five commissioners

were appointed at the 1802 legislative session in Louisville, to select a suitable spot at the head of navigation of the Oconee River and survey a tract of three thousand two hundred and forty acres of land to be set apart for a town to be called Milledgeville, for the future capital of the state.

The military laws of the state were also revised, and the state divided into four militia districts, and these sub-divided into eight brigades, and these continued into regiments, battalions and companies; the numbers to be enrolled into these several bodies were prescribed and the times and places of musters, drills and other military duties were appointed. The governor was made commander-in-chief. These gatherings, composed of so many classes of people, were sometimes occasions of disorder, which included fights, horse racing, gander pulling and other things. Whiskey flowed freely.

These muster occasions were the inspiration of Longstreet's famous book, "Georgia Scenes," in which the characters were taken from real life. Louisville, as the capital of the state, was a great gathering place on muster days. The capitol was moved to Milledgeville in 1807, and in 1808 the legislature took some steps to prohibit the sale of spiritous liquors, and the same year the importation of African slaves was made unlawful.

June 18, 1812, war was declared on Great Britain, and the arms stored in Louisville were moved to Milledgeville.

In 1836, Hon. William Schley was elected Governor. He was educated in Louisville and Augusta. Howell Cobb, who was made governor in 1851, was born in Jefferson County. In 1853, the Democratic party was formally recognized in Georgia, and Herschel V. Johnston was elected democratic governor. At this time the North and South were agitated over the slave question, and states' rights, which grew in intensity, and was the cause of bitter sectional feeling. The South stood for separate State rights, the North adhered to the Union and when, in 1860 and 1861, the Southern States, one by one, seceded from the United States, war was declared, and continued four years. The South fought under great difficulties, but finally yielded to better equipment, and greater forces—many foreign soldiers being hired by the Federal government.

One of the closing scenes of this war was General Sherman's march from Atlanta to Savannah. Jefferson County lay in the path of this march, and great destitution of food and clothing followed. This was in November, 1864. The men of the country were in the army, from boys of sixteen years to old men, and only women and children, with most



of the slaves, were left on the plantations. Some of the slaves had gone into camp with their masters to wait on them. The feeling between slaves and their owners was like the dependent trust and love of children, combined with the protecting care of the blacks for their white folks. The white family was responsible for the food and clothing and medical attention of the slaves; religious services were conducted by themselves, sometimes by the white ministers. The slaves, in turn, gave love and service to their white folks. This was demonstrated after Sherman's march to the sea, when but for these faithful servitors, many a child and the older ones, at the "big house", would have suffered more; for negroes have an uncanny way of finding things to eat, and they shared it all liberally with their mistress and her children, leaving their own family to get what was left.

Never in all history was shown a closer or more tender feeling between two races than was shown between the whites and blacks, until after the uncivil war. Very few of this type are living, for it is sixty years behind us; but, now and then, you will find an old "mammy" who, though too feeble to do much, still comes among the children of her white folks and putters around, knowing at the close of the day, when she goes home, the empty basket she brought

in the morning will be filled to capacity with substantial.

Because Jefferson County had a part in the work of evangelizing the negroes, an article from the "Blue Book of Southern Progress," issued by the *Manufacturers Record* of Baltimore, Maryland, is inserted: "One phase of Southern life of olden days needs to be told and retold. This is the religious spirit which prevailed among people of all classes. With a profound conviction of their responsibility to God and to the negroes, people of the South, between 1800 and 1860, did the greatest missionary work in human history. There is nothing comparable to it. Slaves just from the jungles of Africa representing many tribes, tribes which had fought each other—some of which had been cannibalistic in spirit and in act; tribes which could not speak the language of other tribes, were brought to this country.

"The slave-trader or slave-importer was not generally of Southern birth, but wherever he might hail from, whether from New England or England, or other lands, he was thoroughly despised by the people who bought slaves from him. Taking these negroes just from barbarism, absolutely without education or any knowledge or conception whatever of God, the Old South concentrated its energy upon

teaching them the story of the redeeming power of the Cross of Christ. Hundreds of thousands of these men and women black in face became white in heart. No more consecrated, devoted Christians have ever been known than many of these negroes to whom the Gospel of Christ was preached in the home and in the church by the men and women of the Old South. There were four million negroes in the south in 1860; all of them had been civilized and a very large proportion had been evangelized. Most of them had learned to love and respect their owners, and between owner and slave there was a spirit of actual devotion on both sides far greater than any but Southern born people have ever conceived of. The man who loves his faithful dog would fight to protect his dog against a brute, just as freely as the dog would fight to protect his master. There is a love between the dog and his master beautiful to behold, impossible to adequately describe. A greater love existed between most owners and their slaves. To a large extent each would protect the other against an enemy. It was a peculiar relation that had some elements of love and devotion on both sides which few outside people have ever understood."

As a lion defeated once, rises and shakes himself to renew the battle, so the men, straggling home

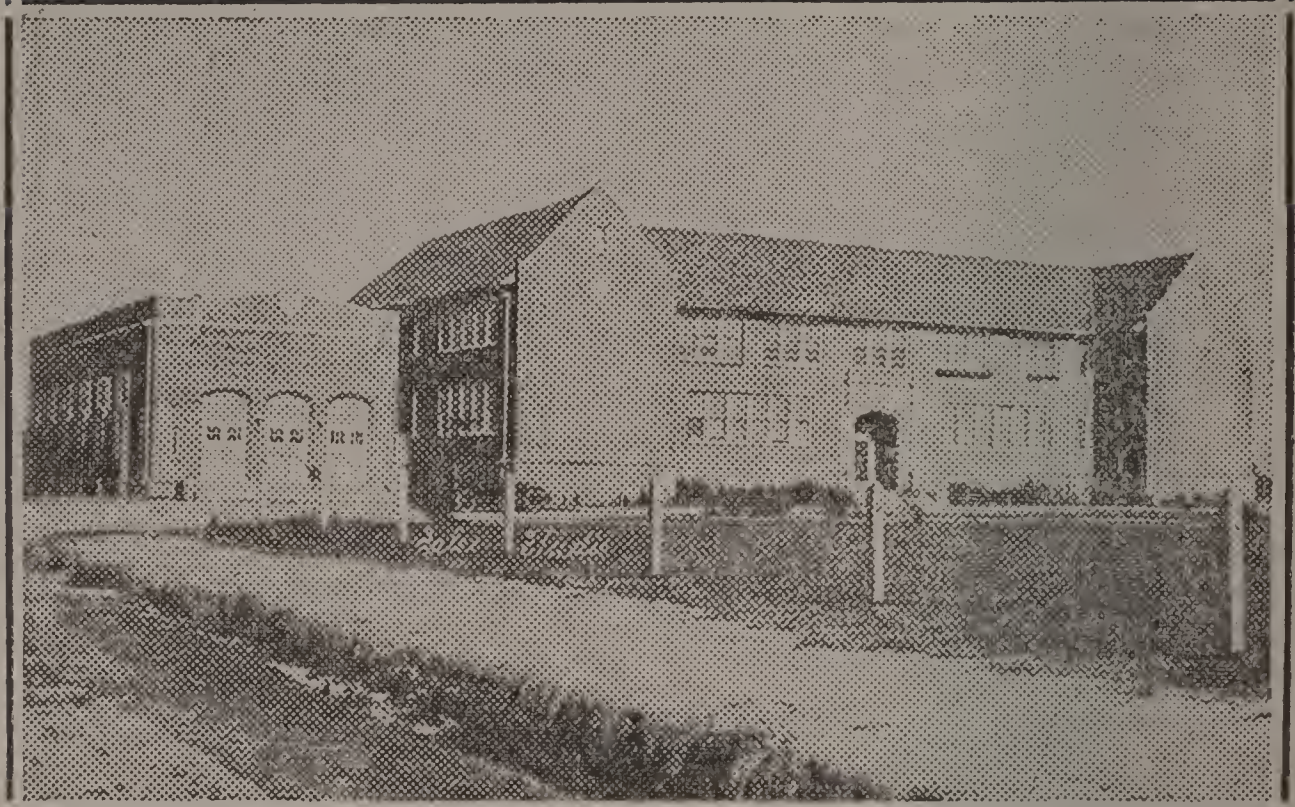
from battlefields in 1865 adjusted a new perspective to the desolate situation and plunged in to begin anew in untried ways, the effort of providing for themselves and family.

On many big plantations the negroes had remained, except some younger ones; with these, their former owner, if he returned from the war, made arrangements to run a little crop, provided something in the way of an animal to pull the plow could be found, for nearly everything had been killed or driven off by Sherman's army. Sometimes a few cows and horses had been hidden by some faithful slave and were brought home after all danger was over. Often a milch cow was hitched to the plow, then milked at night to furnish food for the children. The heroic work and sacrifices of widows left with little children can never be recorded on earth. The people spun and wove cloth, both cotton and wool, for clothing; and many were the experiments in dyes and weaving to make unusual results. Shucks from corn were made into hats as well as other materials. The negroes used a great deal of wire grass, a native forest grass of this section, for baskets and other objects. Nearly every farm of good size had a small vat in which to tan leather for making shoes.

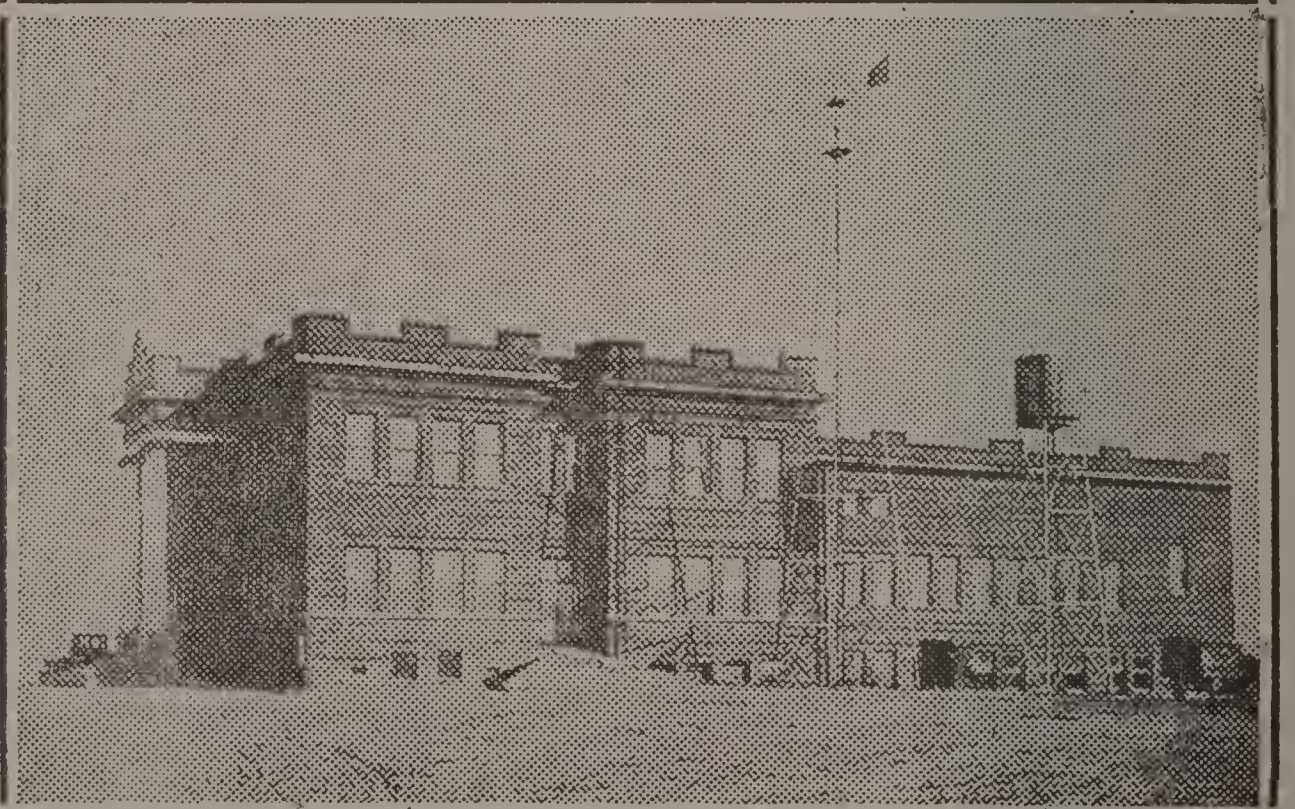
There was very little money in the country, and

every thing needed, and that could be grown or made on the farm, was produced. Flour that could not be produced at home, and sugar and coffee, were obtained by barter as in primitive days. Slowly but surely the South was coming into her own. Jefferson County passed through this struggle. For a few years education was at a low ebb, but a few schools that had been established began again to function. Louisville had not suspended; Bartow, Stellaville and Bethany had good schools, with one or more little schools in country settlements. Cotton planting again absorbed the farmers who, many of them, in a few years accumulated money and some fortunes.

Other business enterprises came in, saw mills, turpentine farms, cotton seed oil mills, railroads, and dairying with various other things, are developing the county which, with good roads and good schools, together with its fine farming lands, make it the peer of any section in Georgia. Here can be raised almost any crop that grows in the temperate zone. Truck farming is profitable. Dairying and poultry raising are attracting much attention, where it is easy to raise everything needed for feed. Since the boll weevil has infested the cotton fields, diversity of farming is practised and made a scientific study. The county has for a number of years kept an expert farmer in Louisville at the service of every farmer in the county.



LOUISVILLE ACADEMY



STAPLETON SCHOOL

Jefferson County, with her five senior accredited high schools, stands forth as the leading Rural County along school lines in Georgia.

Education is not sold to a community in one generation; hence when one considers the progress that Jefferson County schools have made during the past five years one will immediately say that for the past century Jefferson County has been composed of citizens with vision.

Consolidation in our county has been practiced as well as preached. The people have been educated to the fact that the small, isolated, lonely, antiquated, inefficient one-room school must give way to the large, well-equipped consolidated schools, as the ox-cart has given place to the motor car.

For the first time in the history of Jefferson County the schools opened in September, 1926, with all the one-room schools merged into the centralized schools.

Below are given the names of the small schools which have been consolidated: Aldred, Black Jack, Brinson, Calhoun, Cedar Grove, Dry Branch, Ebenezer, Hardeman, Harmony, Hadden Mill, Holly Grove, Johnson, Lofton, Log Yard, Laurel Hill, Midway, Middleground, Morris Grove, Noah, Ocala, Ogeechee, Oak Grove, Padgett, Post Oak, Rockdale, Stapleton Cross Roads, Swan, Tuckyhoo,

Union Hill, Union Institute, Williams, Willie, and Woodland.

Hon. M. L. Duggan, Rural School Agent, thought so much of the schools of Jefferson County, that he made a stereopticon view to show to the backward counties of Georgia the progress that our county has made in consolidation and school buildings.

Jefferson County is proud of her Senior high schools. Any boy or girl in the county can reach one of these schools in an half hour ride.

Louisville Academy is housed in a handsome \$100,000 building, surrounded by a campus of eight beautiful acres with spacious grounds for athletics and playground.

This historic school was created by the legislature in 1784, the same year in which Franklin College, now the University of Georgia, was created.

Stapleton High School has the unique distinction of having erected a \$50,000 school building by public subscription of her own patriotic people.

Wrens Academy stands as a monument to the heroic and self-sacrificing efforts of Supt. C. C. McCollum, who has been at the head of this wonderful school for the past thirty years. Mr. McCollum has seen this school grow from a one-room shack with an enrollment of twenty-five pupils to the present



handsome structure, with an enrollment of over 400 pupils.

Bartow High School is today in one of the most up-to-date school buildings in the State, erected in 1923.

Wadley High School was the first brick school building erected in the county. The people of this fine community were not satisfied with the school accommodations, so in 1923 a new grammar school building was erected, which is the pride of the whole district.

Junior high schools are located at Avera, Grange, Moxley, Matthews, Stellaville, and Zebina.

These schools teach nine grades and have from three to five teachers in each school, with a term of at least eight months.

Avera and Matthews schools will soon be housed in new buildings, as bond issues were recently held.

The curriculum in these schools is in conformity with the regular work of our Senior high schools.

Instead of carrying the school to the children, the children are brought to the school. All transportation is handled by Ford trucks with standardized bodies; the drivers contract a salary for the year and furnish their own trucks.

There are twenty-eight Ford trucks operating daily over the county transporting over 1,000



SCHOOL AT WADLEY



SCHOOL AT MATTHEWS

children to the schools. Over one-half of the enrollment in our consolidated schools is composed of rural children. The average cost per day a child is less than ten cents.

Competent drivers and good roads enable our trucks to make schedule time and also guarantee to the parents the safety of their children.

It is not a question now of getting people to send their children to school; the great problem is to adequately care for the ones that are sent. All of our schools are crowded to capacity and the teachers are burdened with large classes.

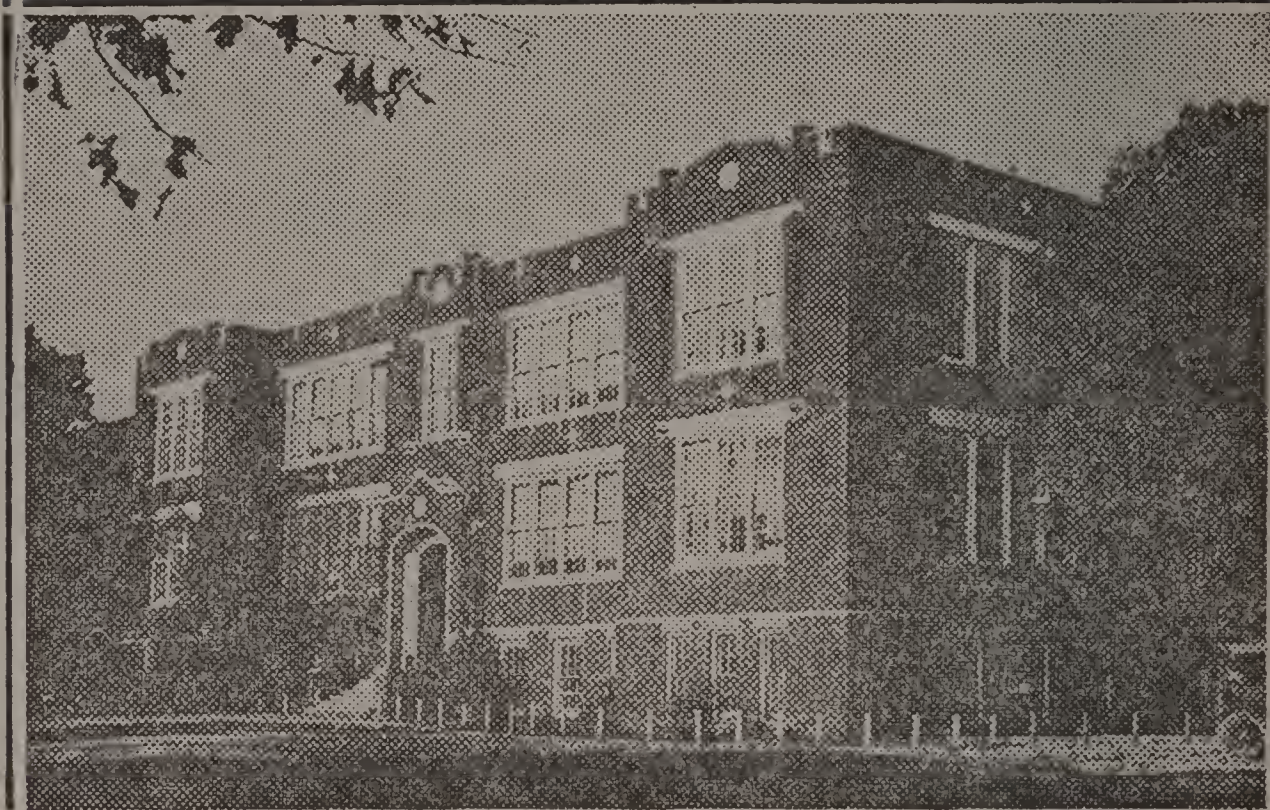
Parents who have been sending their children only six months to the small schools are now sending them nine months, as they readily see the great opportunities that are placed before their children.

Our five high schools enroll eighty per cent. of the 2,700 white children in the county of school age. Louisville Academy has an enrollment of 450 pupils; 250 of this number are transported in the seven Ford trucks that operate to this school.

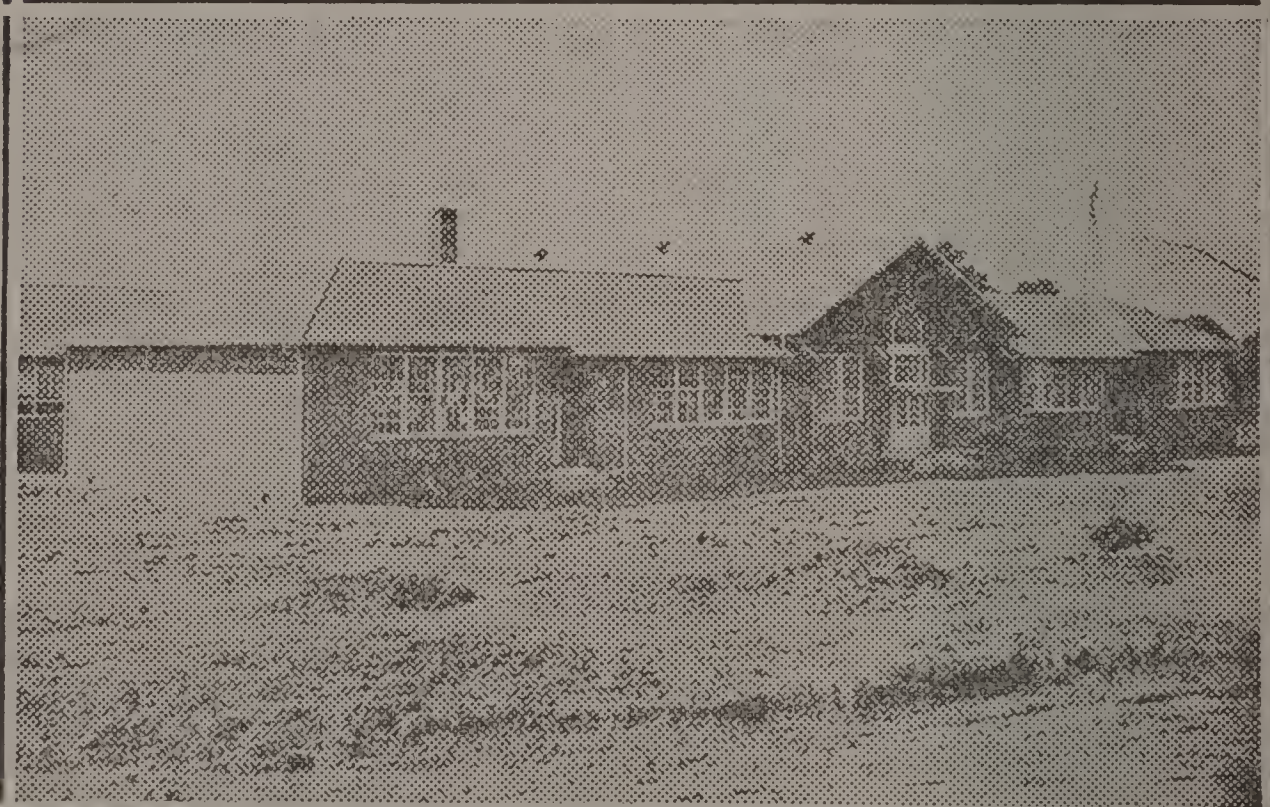
Wadley and Bartow schools have each enrolled 350 children with fifty per cent. of them coming from the country.

Stapleton, with an enrollment of 275 children, has over 125 from the rural districts.

Wrens Academy, with an enrollment of over 425



WRENS SCHOOL



SCHOOL AT BARTOW

children, has over fifty per cent. from the country.

Louisville Academy has won literary honors for the past three years in the County Meet. In the Tenth District Contest in 1924, Louisville won the Literary Cup. A County Meet is held each year; all the schools of the county gather for athletic and literary contests. The interest of the teachers and children is stimulated weeks before the contests and the schools of the county are kept before the public eye.

Stapleton High School has always made creditable showing both in literary and athletic events. Stapleton won the County Basketball Cup recently, and the Augusta Trade District Cup the year previous.

Wrens High School won the County Basketball Cup in 1925, and the Tenth District Cup in 1926. Wrens school also won the Athletic Cup in the Tenth District Contest in Warrenton in 1925.

All teachers of Jefferson County have enrolled one hundred per cent. in the Georgia Education Association for the past three years.

The financial condition of a county always reflects upon the efficiency or inefficiency of the County Board of Education. Over \$125,000 is spent annually for the maintenance of the schools. In addition to the county-wide tax of five mills that is

levied, the thirteen local school districts levy five mills for administration of the schools.

All money raised to finance the \$500,000 invested in school buildings is raised by bond issues in each local district.

Money for education is as much a preventive expense against ignorance and crime as the dollars spent on the army and navy prevent war.

The equalization of educational opportunities for all children is at last coming to be realized in our county. The child in the remotest country district has access to as good school in Jefferson County as the one born and bred in the largest towns of the county.

Our school system has developed a splendid community spirit and has broken down the long-standing barrier that has existed between the country and the town. The happy result of the \$250,000 bond election for Good Roads last November has proven the above statement.

Three of the five accredited high schools in the county are on a paved road known as Federal Highway No. 1, which runs from Fort Kent, Maine, to Miami, Florida. The present generation, and generations to come, will always sing praises to Hon. J. R. Phillips, member of the State Highway Commission, for his untiring efforts in getting this main thoroughfare through the county.

The experience of Jefferson County with the district and consolidated system has been most happy; and it is hoped that our entire rural school system throughout the State will be developed along the lines outlined in this short history.

### THE YAZOO FRAUD

The territory of Georgia extended to the Mississippi River on the west. By all the treaties the state held all that region in undisputed control. In 1789 a party of men in South Carolina organized themselves into a company, and named their organization the "South Carolina Yazoo Company". It was called Yazoo from a river and region of land near the Mississippi, once possessed by the Yazoo Indians, which this company undertook to purchase from Georgia.

Other companies were formed at the same time for the same purpose viz: "The Virginia Yazoo Company," with Patrick Henry at its head. "The Tennessee Company" was another corporation. These companies made application to the Georgia Legislature at the same time for grants of western lands. The agents of these companies worked with great energy, and much excitement prevailed. Soon, another company was formed, called "The Georgia Company".

Many began to look with distrust on these companies, while the agents painted, in glowing terms, the benefits that would come to Georgia by the sale of these lands.

The Senate passed the bill legalizing the sale of Georgia's western lands after nine days' discussion, and was signed by Governor Walton. By the provision of this bill, the three companies from South Carolina, Virginia and Tennessee—Georgia being excluded—received over twenty million acres of land in payment of two hundred thousand dollars or one cent per acre. This legislation produced great indignation in Georgia, but fortunately all the provisions of the grants were not fulfilled, and as the companies could not claim their lands, this sale was never completed. Other companies sprang up, and in 1794 the legislature received new proposals for the purchase of the western lands.

The companies were: "The Georgia Company", "The Virginia Yazoo Company", "The Tennessee Company", and "The Georgia-Mississippi Company". These companies applied for twenty-three million acres of land and offered five hundred thousand dollars for it, or about two cents per acre. George Matthews was governor. He opposed the passage of any bill granting these lands. Every argument was used to gain his approval. The bill



passed the legislature, but the Governor vetoed it. This checked the operations for a time, but the agents of the companies persisted with Governor Matthews, until he finally signed the act. A few days later, another bill was introduced into the senate with a new title, but in import the same as that which had been vetoed.

The Senate passed the fraudulent bill, and it received the signature of the Governor. The four companies who received land under this grant were, "The Georgia Company", "The Georgia-Mississippi Company", "The Tennessee Company", and the "Upper Mississippi Company". Thirty-five million acres of land were sold for five hundred thousand dollars, or for one and a half cent an acre.

Intense excitement prevailed, and great indignation expressed against the legislature, and the executive legislators were accused of bribery. William H. Crawford took an active part in the opposition, as did other men of prominence. The Georgia Senators in Congress were James Gunn and James Jackson. Mr. Gunn had accepted a prominent place in one Yazoo Company and, when he came home, found himself in great disfavor. Mr. Jackson violently opposed the scheme and when the bill passed and became a law, he resigned his seat in the senate, and returned to Georgia to fight the Yazoo fraud.

He was elected to the legislature, which was to meet the second Tuesday in January, 1796, in Louisville, the new capital of Georgia. The Legislature assembled, Governor Matthews sent a message explaining the state of affairs, and advised them to repeal the Yazoo Act of the past legislature. He told them the various companies had paid into the treasury the amount required, had cancelled all mortgages, and were in full possession of the land. The case had become complicated, and required careful legislation. On January 5, 1796, Jared Irwin was elected Governor. Both branches of the legislature had been elected, pledged to repeal the Yazoo Act. A committee of nine persons was appointed to investigate the validity and constitutionality of the act, of which committee, James Jackson was chairman. The committee reported that the fraud and corruption by which the said act was obtained, made it a nullity itself and not binding or obligatory on the people of the state.

A bill drafted by James Jackson, known as the Rescinding Act, was passed by both houses and signed by Governor Irwin Feb. 13, 1796. This Act states the fraudulent grounds upon which the Yazoo lands were obtained, and further declares it to be the sense of Georgia that the Yazoo Act is not binding upon the people, and that the money paid into

the treasury be refunded, and the grants considered annulled. A day or two after the passage of the Rescinding Act, it was determined to burn the Yazoo Act, and purge the records of everything relating to it. On Feb. 15, 1796, it was ordered by the legislature that a large fire be kindled in front of the State House, lit from the sun by a burning glass, in order to use fire from heaven to burn the obnoxious papers. The Senate and House met in the Representative Hall, and marched out in procession to a place before the capitol.

When they reached the fire, they formed a circle and reverently removed their hats. The committee appointed to obtain the papers and records handed them to the President of the Senate, that officer delivered them to the Speaker of the House; from his hands they passed to the Clerk and finally into the hands of the Messenger. The Messenger approached the fire and uttered the words: "God save the State, and long preserve her rights; and may every attempt to injure them perish as these corrupt acts now do". After which, he threw the papers into the fire, where they were consumed to ashes.

After this exhibition of scorn at official dishonesty the members slowly marched back to the house and resumed work. The persons who were interested in the Yazoo sales took offense at this act of the

legislature and united in a powerful effort to defeat the operation of the Rescinding Act. This was finally carried into United States Congress, and commissioners were appointed by the government to meet commissioners from Georgia, and settle the difficulty. An agreement was made several years later. Jackson, Milledge, and Baldwin represented Georgia and, in 1802, Georgia ceded to the United States all the territory now embraced by Alabama and Mississippi, and the Yazoo titles were turned over to the Government. The money that had been paid into the treasury of Georgia was refunded to the companies who had an interest in the Yazoo lands, and the United States paid to Georgia one million five hundred thousand dollars.

### LOUISVILLE

The legislatures had been meeting alternately, when possible, in Savannah and Augusta since Georgia was colonized, with a few exceptions, when it met in one or two other places. The inconvenience of getting to Savannah, from the up-country sections, caused a discussion about moving the assembly to a more convenient place of meeting. On January 26, 1786, when the Legislature met in Augusta, the following commissioners were appointed to select a location, viz: Nathan Brownson, William Few and

Hugh Lawson. They were instructed to find a site "most proper and convenient" for the end in view, whereon to erect public buildings; and, by way of further stipulations, was added the clause, "provided, the same shall be within twenty miles of Galphin's Old Town". On fulfillment of these conditions, they were authorized to buy one thousand acres of land and to lay out a part thereof into a town, "which should be known by the name of Louisville". Many difficulties hindered the completion of these plans, but finally, in the Constitution of 1795, the new town was designated as the capital.

One of the first things to occupy the attention of the people after establishing Louisville as capital was the cause of education. When, in 1796, the new county was laid out from Warren and Burke, a provision was made for establishing a school in Louisville to be a branch of the State University at Athens, founded in 1785. The school at Louisville was one of a group established about this time by the Legislature as feeders to the University, and is probably one of the oldest in Georgia. The commissioners to organize the academy were: David Bothwell, John Shellman, James Meriwether, John Cobb and Josiah Sterrett.

The town was laid off after the pattern of Phila-

delphia, the streets running north and south, east and west. Town lots were sold and most of proceeds used for the Academy. A grant of one thousand pounds sterling from confiscated property was also donated by the government. Many distinguished men moved to the capital, and here were enacted scenes that have made Georgia history unparalleled. Among one of the most important acts was burning the papers of the Yazoo Fraud in front of the State House which stood where the present court house stands. Presbyterians were the first to establish congregations in Louisville. These were followed by the Methodists and Baptists.

The first church in Louisville was built by Joseph Gamble, the father of Roger Lawson Gamble, Sr., and was on the lot where the public school stood before it was moved to its present site. It was afterwards surrendered to the Methodists, but on their securing a lot of their own, the old church, much dilapidated, was torn away. There are splendid churches now, Presbyterian, Methodist and Baptist, and an elegant and commodious brick school building recently completed. The wide, shady streets, beautiful homes with well kept lawns, and a hospitable people, make Louisville an attractive place for a home-seeker.

Several industries flourish here, among which are

an oil mill, guano mixing plant, planing mill, ice factory, good mercantile houses, and two banks. The population of the town is about fifteen hundred. The Dixie and Jefferson Davis Highways pass through this town.

The *Louisville Gazette*, founded in 1796, was one of the pioneer newspapers. The handsome oak press, purchased in England, used in publishing the paper, was afterwards sold to the *Georgia Messenger* at Macon. The *Gazette* has long since yielded place to the *News and Farmer*, the official organ of Jefferson County.

The Louisville and Wadley Railroad has its terminus here, and belongs to a class all alone, as it is not operated on Sunday. The road is on a paying basis. So much for Sabbath observance. Artesian water has improved the health of the town until it compares well with any section. A modern tourist hotel has just been completed on Broad Street.

On the principal business thoroughfare of Louisville, there stands one of the most historic structures in America: the old Slave Market. It is one of the very few buildings of this character which time has spared. Around it cluster the fading memories of an old regime; and with the ancient harper in "The Lay of the Last Minstrel", it seems to sing:

"Old times are past, old manners gone,  
A stranger fills the Stuart's throne."

There is no one in Louisville who can recall the time when the old Slave Market was built. The presumption is, therefore, quite strong that it must have been erected during the period when Louisville was the State capital and when the town promised to become an important commercial center. If such be the fact, it is not less than 120 years old, for Louisville was made the capital in 1795. Indeed, the commissioners to locate the town were appointed at the close of the Revolution, and the first steps looking toward the erection of government buildings at Louisville were taken in 1786. The center of population at this time was Galphinton, only nine miles distant; the planters in the neighborhood were large slave owners, some of them old soldiers, who were given extensive tracts of land for services in the war with England, and the erection of the Slave Market can be readily assigned to this remote period without the least violence to historic truth.

The wooden character of the building does not weaken the strength of this hypothesis. It was constructed of the best quality of post oak; and even to this day it is difficult to drive a nail into the tough fibers of which the wood is composed. The little structure stands in the middle of the street, where about it on every side pulses the life current of the old town.



On market days, when crowds gather from the surrounding plantations of Jefferson to shop in the village stores, when the circus comes to town, or when the campaign orator improves the opportunity of court week to stir the echoes of the stump, it seems to wear something of the old-time look and to be dreamily reminiscent of an interest which it once attracted.

For years after the late war, and indeed until times quite recent, it was customary for officers of the court to conduct legal sales at the old Slave Market. It was probably an inheritance from the days when slave property was here put upon the block and sold under the hammer, but when an issue was raised in regard to it, the custom was discontinued. While the old Slave Market of Louisville serves no practical purpose, it is an interesting memorial which the citizens of Louisville take pride in preserving, since there are few relics of the sort left, and it may be the only remnant of this kind which still remains—an authenticated fragment of the Old South.

On the outskirts of the town is the old cemetery, where several Revolutionary patriots sleep. The new cemetery, adjoining the recent school campus, contains the mortal remains of some of Georgia's most distinguished sons. In 1923, the old town commons for a hundred years owned by Louisville

Academy, and taken over a few years ago by the city of Louisville, was sold at public auction. It contained one hundred and ninety acres, and sold for two thousand and fifty dollars. The school is housed in a modern brick building situated further out, and has a splendid campus, a full corps of teachers, and every facility for teaching. The old school building has been torn down and moved. After the capitol was moved to Milledgeville, the state house was turned over to the county of Jefferson. It was used for some years as county court house, but became so dilapidated it was necessary to replace it which, in 1894, was in turn replaced by one of the handsomest court house buildings in the state, at a cost of \$50,000.

In excavating for the present court house the foundation of the old state capitol was disclosed, and by singular coincidence, corresponded with the plans for the new building. A slight skirmish occurred here on the last day of November, 1864; some Federal foraging parties were driven into camp by a small force of Wheeler's cavalry. Colonel Langley was sent out with four regiments and, after the exchange of a few shots, the Confederates slowly retired. The casualties were trifling on both sides.

In the office of the ordinary, Judge Jas. F. Brown,

and Clerk of the Court, Mr. Waller Murphy, there are many old and valuable papers, some of which are as old as the county. Land grants from King George, ancient wills, lists of beneficiaries of land lotteries just after the War of the Revolution, and many interesting documents whose value increase as years go by. These records, so well kept, and the halo of chivalry and patriotism that linger around those early days of our county's beginning, are legacies of immortal worth to the present generation.

### WADLEY

In the year 1873, Mr. William Donovan operated a saw mill near the Central Railroad and put down a wood or tram road running from his mill to the point on the railroad now known as Wadley, then called "Shake Rag". Mr. Donovan saw that this would be a good shipping point in the future and conceived the idea of building a town. As he and Judge A. E. Tarver owned the lands on both sides of the road for a mile, he got the judge interested and made liberal offers to the Central Road if sufficient side tracks were put in to accommodate the business. A deed to 100 feet of land from the center of the track on both sides, of sufficient length to hold all side-tracks, was given by these two men. The Road built a freight house, put in side-tracks,

and made this a full station for all purposes. Later they built a passenger waiting room and put in telegraph equipment.

Then the little city must have a name. Mr. Donovan was a good friend of Mr. William Wadley, the president of the Central Railroad, therefore he gave it the name of Wadley. Lots were staked and sold at public auction. Mr. Tarver built a store house, and the first merchant in the town was S. L. Peterson. Mr. J. A. Spann built a dwelling and small store and occupied them. In 1874, Murphy and Bedingfield built a store and did a general merchandise business for several years. Lots were sold on Main Street, and the town slowly grew.

A short line of Railroad reaching from Wadley to Louisville was surveyed and completed. Mr. William Donovan gave lumber and a lot for a school building, and Mr. George Johnson, citizen of Wadley, taught the first school. Mr. T. S. Calhoun gave a lot for the Methodist church, and Mr. William Donovan gave the lot on which the Baptist church stands.

The Wadley Southern, and Stillmore Air Line connect with the Central at Wadley, making it a fine railroad center.

Wadley has a splendid brick school building, with a new brick addition to accommodate the increasing number of children.

Several flowing artesian wells furnish an abundant water supply, and a new light plant is being installed. Wadley is an important lumber shipping point, and has several good mercantile stores, also a bottling plant, and a good hotel and bank. It is situated in a fine farming section. The people are quiet, industrious and hospitable.

### BARTOW

Ten miles south of Louisville lies the village of Bartow. It is situated on the Central of Georgia Railroad, in a fine farming section. The land is rolling, furnishing fine drainage. In 1859 there were only two dwellings, one just back of the George Palmer house, owned now by Lamar Smith, which was occupied by the overseer of the railroad construction force. The other house was near where the school house stands, and was occupied by Mr. William Spier, who kept a commissary for the railroad hands. During this year Reverend Russel Johnson and Mr. Marcus Evans came over from Burke county and Mr. Johnson bought the home of Mr. Spier while Mr. Evans occupied the little house used by the railroad man. They opened a mercantile business and the next year began building colonial homes side by side. Both of these homes were used for many years to entertain traveling guests.

The first year Rev. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Evans came over to this place which was then called Spier's Turnout, they began plans to have a school. Mr. George Palmer, a young graduate of Emory College, was secured, and boys and girls came from the surrounding country to board and go to school. An epidemic of typhoid fever in 1860 claimed Mr. Johnson's oldest son, Alex, as victim, and his was the first grave made in the cemetery. The war interfered with the school but as soon as possible it was resumed.

A better name for the place was being sought, and this was furnished by the death of General Bartow at the first battle of Manassas, July 21, 1861, who, when he left home said, "I go to illustrate Georgia". So Spier's Turnout became Bartow.

Two sons of Mr. William Spier were brought home to sleep on their native soil and are buried in one grave. They were not killed in the same battle but at the same time, and their bodies reached home together.

In November, 1864, Sherman's army came, and tore up the railroad, and for a few years the country around was desolated, as Bartow was in the main path of the army, being near the old Savannah road. Soon, however, the town began to resume a more normal condition. Business improved, the school,

taught for so many years afterwards by Judge J. K. Kinman, flourished. In the 80's Mr. W. C. Smith built a hotel and large store, also a Methodist church, across Williamson Creek a mile south of Bartow, and for a few years business centered in the new site, but soon returned to North Bartow.

The Methodist Church was torn down and moved to its present situation, and the Baptist congregation who also had a church across the creek near the bridge, sold it and built a new church on its present site. A few years later, Mr. H. E. Smith planned a new school house, for which bonds were sold and the house built. This in turn has been moved from the campus and given to the negro school, and a modern one story building erected, for which \$45,000 bonds were sold the past year.

The town owns and operates an electric light plant, has a dozen or more private artesian wells, a daily bus line to Augusta, a strong bank, several good mercantile houses, guano mixing plant, two gins and being the center of the finest farming section of the world, enjoys an immense trade.

The religious and social life of the town has been its trade-mark. Bartow sent out one foreign missionary to Brazil, Miss Elizabeth Murphy, a granddaughter of Judge A. E. Tarver, who himself was a faithful member of the Primitive Baptist church.

A page from the memoirs of Capt. Ike Herman, a native of France, who espoused the cause of the South during the War Between the States, gives some incidents about Bartow in the spring of 1864. The hospital in Atlanta, at whose head stood Dr. Crawford, had run out of provisions and Mr. Herman, who was a patient there, but able to do some duty, was appointed by Dr. Crawford to go on a foraging expedition. He gave Mr. Herman ten thousand dollars of new Confederate bills, in denominations of five to one thousand dollars. The currency had deflated and they did not expect the money to buy much, but the the Central Railroad kindly gave two box cars, and stationed one each at Bartow and Davisboro. By advertising in the county papers, and by word of mouth, the news was carried far and near. Mr. M. A. Evans was active in gathering up supplies for this car as well as all during the war. Mr. Herman gave a partial list of the largest contributors. Mr. Warren of Louisville sent a four-horse wagon load of flour, free of charge; Judge Tarver sent a heavy load of meats, chickens, eggs, butter, etc. Mr. B. G. Smith sent a hogshead of hams, shoulders and sides of meat nicely cured, 100 pounds of lard, chickens, eggs and sweet potatoes; in fact the farmers of that section, all well to do, vied with each other as to who could



do the most. The car was filled with the choicest provisions, all given freely; Mr. Herman was not allowed to pay for anything. Many poor women would bring their last chicken, and refused to take a penny, saying they were sorry they could not do more. Old linen tablecloths were ravelled, and bags of lint and bandages were brought. That night the car was forwarded to the hospital in Atlanta with special instructions as to the perishable goods, and the money that was sent for food was returned to Dr. Crawford to buy sheets and other things for the wounded men.

In years to come, stories of the World War will be told around fire-sides—but the horror is too recent to dwell on the subject much now. Bartow women, as well as thousands over the land, met day after day, to knit, and cut garments and sew and pray. To the mothers who had boys in camp or over seas, each stitch was a prayer—but so many were mercifully spared the agony of waiting for one who never returned.

## MOXLEY

Moxley is a little station on the Louisville and Wadley Railroad about half way between the two towns. It is an attractive rural community, with a good school, and Methodist and Baptist churches.

A small modern dairy is located here, managed by Mr. Craig Carswell, and owned by him and his sister, Miss Helen Carswell, whose face and gentle ministrations have brought cheer to many sick rooms.

Farming is the chief occupation, with some lumber industry. The people live well, are happy and contented.

### STAPLETON

Stapleton was first a country post office known as Spread Oak, and this was shortened to Spread. It is located in the 1460 Militia District, at the junction of the Georgia and Florida, and Savannah and Atlanta railroads.

In 1885, when the Augusta, Gibson, and Sandersville railroad was built, now known as the Georgia and Florida, the name was changed to Stapleton in honor of Col. James Stapleton.

At that time there was only one store and a few homes. The town was incorporated in 1906, and has steadily increased in population, which at present is about five hundred. Financially and morally the town ranks far above the average. In the history of the town and community there has never been a murder committed among the whites.

This is an agricultural section, and is considered

among the best farming lands in the country, lying on a ridge which is the highest point in the county. The chief crops are cotton and grain; the lumber industry has rapidly increased in recent years.

In 1888 a school building was erected. Later this was found to be inadequate for the needs of the community, and in 1916 a modern brick building was erected on a hill overlooking the town. Eight acres of land was donated for a campus by Mr. James Stapleton. Stapleton has the distinction of having the only brick building in the county and possibly in the state, built by voluntary subscription. There is no bond indebtedness against her school building. In the recent mental tests of schools made by the state, Stapleton ranked first in the county.

There are two churches, Methodist and Baptist. Among the first settlers of this community was George Stapleton, Sr., who served throughout the Revolutionary War, and is buried at his home place near here on land granted him by the government for war service. The place has never been sold, and is still in possession of his descendants, J. T., J. D. and S. J. Dickson.

George Stapleton, Jr., served as major in the war of 1812 under Gen. Andrew Jackson. After the war he retired to his home in Stapleton and was a successful planter. At the close of the Civil War,

when Pres. Jefferson Davis was fleeing from the Federal troops, he passed through this section, and his horse being jaded, he exchanged it with Major Stapleton for a fresh one. At the time of Mr. Davis' capture the horse was in his possession. For thirty-three consecutive years, either in the Senate or House of Representatives, Major Stapleton represented Jefferson and Warren Counties in the legislative halls of our state. He was ordained to the ministry in 1865. Col. James Stapleton, son of Major George Stapleton, Jr., and grandson of George Stapleton, Sr., served his country as lieutenant and captain in Confederate Army, and was promoted to rank of colonel. He served in the legislature sixteen years. In 1877 he was ordained to the ministry and served several churches until the time of his death.

The town was in the line of Sherman's march to the sea, and the usual plunder of homes and stock was suffered. A small skirmish occurred here in which one Yankee was reported killed. One of the early residents of the town was Captain I. F. Adkins, who served as captain in the Civil War. For a number of years, until his death, he was county surveyor. Others were Captain Douglas, J. T. Glover, Sr., T. J. Dickson, W. R. Hammet, James Denton, Aaron Denton, W. E. McNair, S. M. Mc-

Nair, William Clark, Jasper Vining and W. T. O'Neal. One of the prominent men of the town is David Denton, who served as lieutenant under Gen. Stonewall Jackson, in the army of Northern Virginia. He was noted for his generosity, and it was largely through his efforts that the Baptist church was built. Also he was the largest contributor to the new school building.

### STELLAVILLE

Stellaville, like several rural communities, grew into a town with the church and school as the life center, May 15, 1817. Years before the school came into existence, a Baptist church was built near Brushy Creek and called Darcy's Meeting House. This was later changed to Way's Church, and is one of the strongest country churches in the county. It has been served by the most noted Baptist ministers in the state, among whom, none were more beloved than Dr. W. L. Kilpatrick, who was pastor there for a long period. The congregation soon realized the need of Christian education, and discussed plans looking toward that end.

In 1868 Mr. Elkanie Rogers gave a good sized tract of land adjoining the church lot, on which a two roomed frame building was erected, and called The Stellaville High School. Homes were built

near the school, and families moved into them, boarding pupils who came from adjoining counties and South Carolina to attend this school, which took rank at once for its high ideals, and the Christian character of teachers and pupils. The best teachers possible were secured, men with strong Christian characters. Rev. Milton A. Clark who, afterwards for thirty years, was a missionary and teacher for the Indians in Indian Territory, now Oklahoma, and Prof. V. T. Sanford, of the Sanford family of Mercer University, were among the teachers. O. C. Pope, Prof. Spurgeon Jackson, and Mr. H. E. Smith taught there also. An appreciable percentage of pupils who were in this school under those teachers developed into fine Christian characters.

Commencement occasions were events to be remembered, lasting three days and nights. Large crowds of people attended, and dinner was served in the grove each day. A sermon by the best preachers that could be obtained, and a literary address by some brilliant lawyer, were features of marked interest. There was only one house in Stellaville when the school was established, and that was the dwelling of Mr. Bill Way for whom, through his generous benefactions, the name of the church was changed from Darcy's Meeting House to Way's Church.

Being off the railroad, it was never much of a business place, but the people were noted for their Christian character and abundant hospitality. It was said by Dr. Kilpatrick that in a radius of four miles there were more refined Christian homes, and better educated people than any place he knew. One event in the school life of the higher classes in the year 1872 will be recalled with amusement. The teachers decided to take the older pupils to Stone Mountain. They had to go in wagons to Thompson; there a train was chartered. It was an important occasion. The young men of the school bought beaver hats to wear. By the time they all got back home, the young men were disgusted with beavers, as covered wagons and crowded trains were no places for such head-gear.

The church and the school worked for the good of the people, and so were a success. The old school building was burned in 1878, and a two-story house erected which has been improved and remodeled. Mr. Joe Oliphant built the first framed house near Stellaville in Jefferson County. When the school house was remodeled in 1920, the Woman's Club assisted in many ways by salvaging old window sashes—repairing them, painting the building inside and out. The men gave days of work. When the school was first established, John Jones, Joshua Jor-

dan, John Brinson and Noah Smith were largely instrumental in maintaining the school, which for a long time was the only High School in the county or in this section, outside of Louisville.

The town was first called Sistersville, but in 1871 the name was changed to Stellaville, for Stella Brinson, the young daughter of John Brinson. It was incorporated as a town in 1892. One of the most loved men of the town was Dr. J. W. Pilcher, who literally gave himself, time and talent for the good of the community. A P.-T. A. works quietly but efficiently in school and community. The leading industry is agriculture.

### MATTHEWS, AVERA

Matthews, and Avera are important towns of several hundred inhabitants each and situated on the Georgia and Florida Railroad. They each have a fine school system, several mercantile houses and a bank.

### WRENS

According to our oldest records, the land now embracing the town of Wrens was first owned by John Wren, grandfather of W. J. Wren, Sr. Tradition has it that he traded for the land, giving two blind horses, valued at \$25.00, as full payment for the same.



During this early period the community center of this section was Pope Hill, an inn on the stage line of the old Quaker road leading to Savannah.

Wrens as a town had its beginning in 1884 with the building of the Augusta Southern railroad. At this time W. J. Wren, for whom the town was named, built a home here and a store. Dr. C. H. Raley, W. H. Beall, C. J. Fleming and others located here and the Wrens community life began its growth.

The town is located at the physical junction of the Augusta Southern, now the Georgia and Florida, and the Savannah and Atlanta railroads, 32 miles from Augusta, 120 miles from Savannah and 148 miles from Atlanta. It is also on State Highway Routes, number 17 and number 24, Federal Routes, number 1, Woodrow Wilson Memorial Highway, Jeff Davis Highway, and Cotton Belt Highway. The town is just above the meeting of the Piedmont and Tidewater regions, on the great divide between the Savannah and Ogeechee rivers. This location gives it an altitude 300 feet higher than Augusta or Columbus, 110 feet higher than Macon or Milledgeville, higher than Athens and about the altitude of Rome. A resident physician said that if his practice depended alone upon the sickness of Wrens, he would starve to death.

Among the first buildings erected in Wrens was a building for the public school. For several years this building served the double purpose of church and school. The first church built in Wrens was built by the Associate Reformed Presbyterians in 1895, and the first sermon delivered in Wrens was preached by Dr. D. G. Phillips, Sr. The Baptists built a church in Wrens the following year, and the Methodists located a church here in 1904.

As the town has grown in population it has grown in industry. The first suction gin of Jefferson County was located in Wrens in 1896. In 1900 a large roller flour mill was built in Wrens, a woodwork factory was added. And later to these industries were added a cotton seed oil mill, a machine shop, an ice factory, a lumber factory, a Coca-Cola bottling plant, etc.

Wrens has two depots, two automobile stations, stores, wholesale and retail, cotton warehouse, hatchery, and a weekly paper, *The Jefferson Reporter*. The town is supplied with artesian water, and has electric current both for power and lights. The substation of the Aiken Railway and Electric Corporation is located here, also the exchange of the Bell Telephone System.

Perhaps the outstanding growth of Wrens has been in its school. Wrens Institute was organized

in 1899 and was accredited as a high school in 1909. In addition to the regular high school courses it now offers vocational work in Teacher-training, Home Economics and Vocational Agriculture. It has a faculty of fifteen teachers and an alumni of 340 members. The present school building was built in 1919 at a cost of \$65,000.00.

In its short history Wrens has grown to a population of 1,250, and is now the trade center of an extensive section so that such corporations as the Standard Oil Co., the Coca-Cola Co. and similar organizations are making it the distributing point for their products.

At this time the Georgia Cotton Growers Co-operative Association is locating in Wrens one of their Community Centers, and the Woodrow Wilson Highway is being paved through the town.

Location and healthfulness, a progressive people with the spirit of co-operation and Wrens has become a good town.

## ZEBINA

Zebina, a town on the Savannah and Atlanta Railroad, is a rural school center—Matthews is on the Georgia and Florida railroad and has a good school system.

## BETHANY

Just a mile north of Wadley is the small village of Bethany, an almost forgotten town, once the centre of culture, and a type of *ante-bellum* refinement. A large two story building in the middle of a spacious campus sheltered the school, presided over by some notable educators, among whom were Capt. Jack Cheatham and Col. James K. Kinman.

A Methodist church was near the campus and, in 1868, one among the first District Conferences was held here, at which time there was a great revival. Bishop Pierce and his father, Dr. Lovick Pierce, were among the pulpit orators. Great crowds attended, bringing provisions and using unoccupied rooms and dwellings, and the occasion was like a camp meeting.

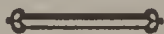
During the war Mr. S. Z. Murphy, who had charge of the orphans in Savannah, refugeed with them to Bethany. Afterwards he made his home there. Capt. Eli McCroan, Messrs. Milledge and Nelson Murphy were also residents of Bethany. The Donovan brothers, Tim and William, lived in and near the town. Dr. William Hauser, Mr. William Gary, Rev. J. M. Cross and Mr. William Brown were all residents of this quiet, peaceful, little town, in which the spirit of the old-time South

was shown in the exquisite courtesy and courtly manner of men and women of that day.

Later the town of Wadley, on the main railroad line, attracted the people, who gradually moved there or elsewhere, and now, with the exception of a few scattered homes, the place is a forlorn settlement, though tied to the heart-strings of many, because it is the hallowed ground where rest the remains of loved ones.



# History of Jefferson County.



## War Between the States

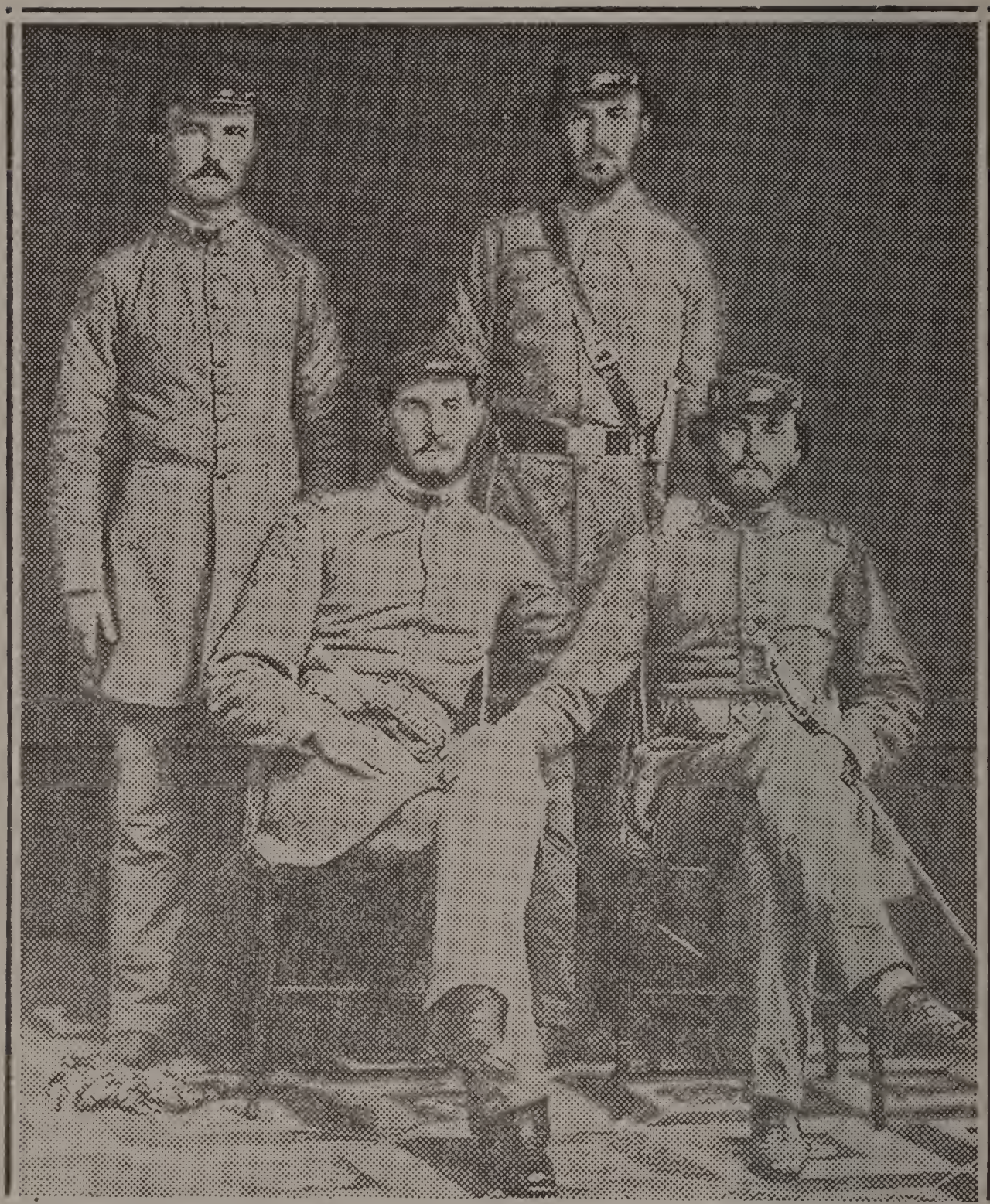
By

W. L. PHILLIPS



One who never turned his back but marched breast forward,  
Never doubted clouds would break,  
Never dreamed tho' right were worsted, wrong would triumph  
Held we fall to rise, are baffled to fight better, sleep to wake—

—*Browning.*



Picture taken in 1863 of Jefferson County soldiers who were at home on sick leave. The Confederate uniform is shown.



## CHAPTER II

### WAR BETWEEN THE STATES

BY W. L. PHILLIPS

A HISTORY of Jefferson County would hardly be complete without giving some data as to the part played by the county in that momentous struggle, the War Between the States, but strange to say no one has ever given us any local information as to Jefferson's part in that most ferocious war of all history, and its stirring scenes are now so far back in the past that it is almost impossible to get first-hand information regarding it. Even those who have reached the days allotted by the Psalmist, three score and ten, were then too young to recall now what transpired in the sixties. More than half a century shields those awful days from the glare of real truth, and softens the memories that brood over them. But never in the history of all time will the world know or see again such a terrific struggle as that of the sixties. Georgia, as a State, stood most prominent in the stirring debates and public utterances of the years just preceding this great conflict, because some of the most prominent and able men of that day were largely Georgians. The question of secession became a burning one and the most

prominent men of Georgia were arrayed on both sides of it. During the year 1860 several Southern States actually seceded from the Union and it became a serious question as to whether Georgia should take such action. In January, 1861, a Convention was held in Milledgeville, the capital of the State, at which this question was the all-absorbing topic. At noon, on Monday, January 21st, 1861, the Secession Ordinance was finally passed by this Convention. One of the most prominent members of that Convention was the member from Jefferson, Hon. Herschel V. Johnston. Hon. George Stapleton was the other member from Jefferson. They both signed the Ordinance when finally passed, but the most bitter and forceful foe of the Secession movement was Ex-governor Johnston. He spoke against it and worked against it, and voted against it, with all the energy and eloquence of his soul, but when finally outvoted, he accepted the ruling of the majority, and signed the Ordinance as passed over his most earnest protest. All other members did the same except six. These six signed the Ordinance as passed, but with their signatures they also filed their protest, which was made a part of the proceedings of the convention.

Georgia being the most prominent State at the time which had not already passed such an Ordi-

nance, her action was at once accepted by common consent as the signal for war. In fact, the war clouds were already fast gathering. Col. Alexander R. Lawton, of Savannah, commanding the First Regiment of Georgia Volunteers, under orders from Governor Joseph E. Brown, who was at that time Governor of Georgia, had taken possession of Fort Pulaski. This was done on January 3rd, 1861, and the Ordinance of Secession was not passed until seventeen days later. Confederate and Federal preparations for war were being carried on rapidly, and it was less than six months before Jefferson County organized her first company to take active part in the great fratricidal conflict which was soon to drench the land with blood. On June 14th, 1861, Jefferson County organized her first company. It was known as "Jefferson County Guards," Company C, 20th Regiment, Georgia Volunteer Infantry. The officers were as follows:

Captain, Roger L. Gamble;

1st Lieutenant, Willis F. Denny;

2nd Lieutenants, Joseph H. Polhill (afterwards made captain) and R. W. Carswell.

Captain Gamble was a young physician just coming into prominence in the county, and was at the time engaged to a daughter of Richard Brown, a prominent farmer then living in the Ebenezer Settle-

ment. She was a sister of Mrs. F. A. Sinquefield, and an aunt of our fellow-townsmen, Col. W. R. Sinquefield, and Mrs. W. A. Stone. There was a great demonstration in Louisville the day this company was mustered into service. Captain, or Doctor Gamble as he was more familiarly known, and Miss Brown afterwards married. They had one daughter who lived to be a young lady, but died soon, outliving, however, both of her parents. Lieutenant Denny afterwards became Judge Denny, presiding over our first county court in Jefferson County after the war.

R. W. Carswell, 2nd Lieutenant, after the war, became judge of the Superior Courts of the Middle Circuit, and was known as a very prominent and successful lawyer also. He died while judge of our Superior Court. Captain Polhill, who still lives, and is the only surviving officer of all the companies organized in Jefferson County, has been in very feeble health and has not been able to leave his home for several years; but while in health and strength was one of the most prominent lawyers of this section of the state. He was at one time a member of the State senate and representative of our county. It is unfortunate that he was not induced to give first-hand information of Jefferson's part in that great struggle, while in his vigor and strength.

The next company organized in Jefferson was known as "Jeff Grays". It was Company I, 28th Regiment, Georgia Volunteer Infantry.

The second company was organized Sept. 10th, 1861, with officers as follows:

Captain, J. G. Cain, afterwards Judge of County Court of Jefferson County and a lawyer of prominence in the State;

1st Lieutenant, Isaac F. Adkins, afterwards County Surveyor of the county for many years.

2nd Lieutenant, James Stapleton, for whom the present Town of Stapleton was named; a prominent and successful farmer.

2nd Lieutenant, Augustus J. Pughesley, a physician for many years.

The next company was organized on Oct. 1st, 1861, and known as "Battey Guards," Company G, 38th Regiment of Georgia Volunteer Infantry.

The officers of this Company were:

Captain, William H. Battey, who was killed in the battle of Sharpsburgh in September, 1862.

1st Lieutenant, John W. Brinson, who became prominent in politics in Jefferson County after the war, and was a great political leader.

2nd Lieutenant, Issac C. Vaughn, who practiced medicine and farmed in the county for many years after the war.

2nd Lieutenant, L. W. Farmer, Jr., who was killed in the battle of Spotsylvania, May 12, 1864.

The next company organized in Jefferson was known as "Jefferson Volunteers," Company E, 48th Regiment of Georgia Volunteer Infantry.

Organized March 4th, 1862. Officers as follows:

Captain, R. W. Carswell, elected lieutenant colonel. Captain Thomas N. Polhill, killed at Gettysburgh July, 1863.

1st Lieutenant, W. A. Spier, killed at Chancellorsville, May, 1863.

2nd Lieutenant, William J. Smith.

2nd Lieutenant, Jeremiah Winter, Jr.

What was known as the "Grubbs Hussars" was organized in July, 1861, and was composed largely of Jefferson County men, but men from both Burke and Emanuel were connected with this company.

This company was known as Company F, Cobb's Legion, Georgia Cavalry. Malcolm D. Jones of Burke county was Captain.

F. A. Siquefield followed by Thomas Pierce of Jefferson was 1st Lieutenant, and William Boyd and Robert McBride of Jefferson were 2nd Lieutenants.

It would be quite interesting, indeed, to have before us the names of the men who enlisted in these various companies, and likely, some day, we may be

able to resurrect, from old and long forgotten registers, their names, so that many of their descendants may know just who they were and to what companies they belonged, where they served, and how they suffered for the cause they loved, and for which a great many of them died. It was a noble band of brothers which Jefferson contributed to this awful war, and it is consoling at least to know that if the advice and counsel of that noble son of hers, Ex-Governor H. V. Johnston, had been heeded, a different record might have been written.

How earnestly and eloquently did that great quartet, Johnston, Stephens, Means and Hill, plead with the convention in the dawn of the sixties for conservatism and moderation, and picture the outcome if their advice should go unheeded! Their judgment has been written into history as prophetic facts. No greater or more eloquent defender of the Union has ever lived than Jefferson's own son, H. V. Johnston.





# History of Jefferson County



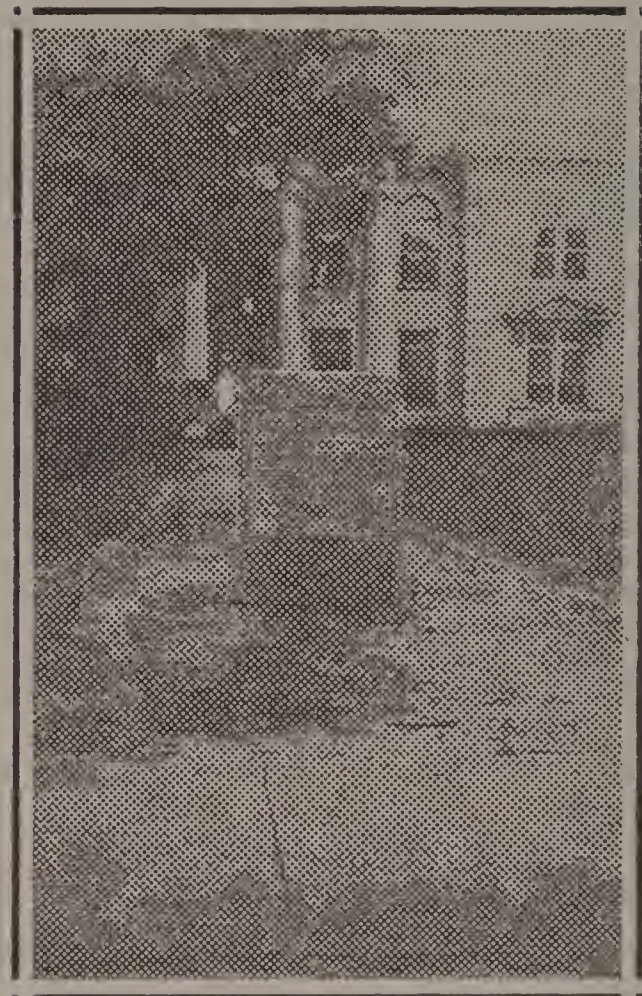
## Historical Sketch

By

HON. WARREN GRICE



“God save our native land and make her strong to stand  
For truth and right.  
Long may her banner wave,  
Flag of the free and brave!  
Thou who alone canst save,  
Grant her Thy might.”—*J. H. Seebye.*



Historic marker before Court House commemorating the burning of Yazoo Fraud papers.

## CHAPTER III

### HISTORICAL SKETCH

BY HON. WARREN GRICE

(We are glad to present this speech in written form to the people of Jefferson county. Those hearing Mr. Grice on the occasion of the unveiling of the historic marker at Jefferson county court house were much impressed with the scholarly discourse and felt that the result of so many hours of research should be preserved in a permanent form. The address is given in full:)

ON the chalk hills of Dover, near the English channel, there may be seen even at this day the carved figure of a gigantic horse, placed there centuries ago as a reminder of the Danish invasion, and of the heroic conduct of the English at that time. Once a year the people of that locality make a pilgrimage to the cliff, and take with them their children, and together they cut away the undergrowth that springs up annually and which tends to obscure the equestrian figure that typifies the heroism and the patriotism of their ancestors; and they fight the erosion that blurs the clear-cut outlines, in order that the picture may stand forth in all its pristine

clearness and beauty and grandeur, to make sure that they and those that should come after them shall not forget the record of their sires.

We do well to take the time, once in a while, to cut away the underbrush and to check the erosion that with the passing years may tend to obscure the true picture of one of the high spots in Georgia's history; and if a restatement of the facts surrounding that episode be but repeating what you already know, it may serve nevertheless to re-ignite your own patriotism to contemplate again the acts and some of the actors that move across the scene that is commemorated by this tablet unveiled here today; for in every age of the world and among all peoples, memory of the heroic deeds of the past have afforded a strong incentive to the succeeding generations to do well their part.

It is well that we come with uncovered heads to this spot, for we stand upon ground hallowed by the deeds of brave men with hearts not only stout, but true.

For ten years this was Georgia's capital. The first legislature met here in 1796. The last one, probably in 1806.

Here convened two Conventions of the people of Georgia. The first, the Convention of 1795, presided over by Noble Wimberly Jones, and in which

sat Josiah Tattnall, Jr., Thomas Gibbons, Joseph Clay, Jr., John Weareat, David Emaneul, Silas Mercer, and Stephen Heard. The second was the Convention of 1798. In it were James Jackson, James Jones, Thomas Spalding, Mathew Rabun, Peter Carnes, Jared Irwin, Arthur Fort, William Stith, Mather Talbott, Benjamin Taliaferro, and Jesse Mercer. They and their co-laborers framed a constitution—here at Louisville, almost on this very spot—under which Georgia experienced her golden period. It was the organic law until 1861, when we had to form another because we then became a part of a new government.

Georgia's Governors who from Louisville steered our ship of state were Jared Irwin, Josiah Tattnall, and John Milledge. Governor Irwin and Governor Milledge each serving more than one term.

Here resided the Governors and the State House officers. Here gathered the big men of the State who laid deep and imperishable the foundations of Georgia's future glory. Here policies were determined. Here governors were made, and unmade. Here met the untrammelled representatives of a free people to discuss Georgia's affairs. Here were set in motion thoughts that made their impress on generations yet unborn.

In those early days of the Republic, a State was a

sovereign. Its government had control of the internal affairs of the people. There were still in life many of those who had framed the Federal Constitution, and there also yet lived the spirit of those who had framed it. They knew the true character of the Federal Government. They knew that it was not intended to make of sovereign States mere provinces, or subdivisions of a nation. They knew that except as to those few matters which the States could better handle through a joint agent, the people could be better ruled, when ruled at home under laws made by the State. The sessions of Congress were therefore short. The people did not look to the Federal capital for the passage of laws which affected them internally, but to the Legislatures of the several States. The result was that the big men of the State, upon entering public life, filled the state offices. And here at Louisville, for ten years, they met, and wrought, and set in motion tides that have left their marks upon the shores of time.

The first state house ever erected by this Commonwealth was here. This is the first place which Georgia designated as the permanent capital. The most dramatic scene in the public life of our State took place on this spot.

What Georgian isn't interested in Louisville where the real beginnings of our statehood were had?

This tablet will not only remind those who come after us that here stood Georgia's first permanent capital, but it specially commemorates a certain act that took place on this spot.

By an Act approved January 26, 1786, Nathan Brownson, William Few, and Hugh Lawson, Esquires, were appointed Commissioners with the power to proceed to fix a place for the seat of the public buildings, provided the same be within twenty miles of Galphin's old town; and to purchase a tract of land for that purpose, and to lay out a part thereof into lots, streets, and alleys, the town to be known by the name of Louisville.

These Commissioners proceeded with their duties. There were delays due to lack of funds and the death of the contractor, so that the public buildings were not finally completed until March, 1786, (Knight), but by the Constitution of 1795 the new town was designated as the permanent capital.

The three men who "laid out" the town of Louisville and who were charged with the duty of seeing that the necessary public buildings were erected, and who therefore became in a sense the founders of Louisville were themselves a distinguished trio. Hugh Lawson was the son of a North Carolinian who before the Revolution settled in what is now Jefferson county. The son was a captain in the War

of Independence, was frequently a member of the General Assembly from this County, a leader in the politics of the State and progenitor of many distinguished Georgians who have served her well from that day to this. Nathan Brownson was a resident of Liberty County. He was a physician, a graduate of Yale, a member of the Provincial Congress of Georgia, twice a member of the Continental Congress, and Governor of Georgia, besides filling with credit a number of other important offices. William Few was a partisan officer of Georgia troops during the Revolution, a member of the Executive Council, a delegate to the Continental Congress, Judge of the Superior Court in the early days, and a United States Senator from Georgia in the first Congress.

When Louisville was made the capital, it stood near the eastern boundary of the red men's hunting grounds. The white settlements at that time were only the coast counties and a narrow strip west of the Savannah river. Louisville was really almost a frontier settlement. Practically speaking, all west of here, all the mountainous part of the state, most of the wiregrass section, all of southwest Georgia, was a primeval forest. Nominally, the treaty of Paris in 1783 left Georgia in possession of a great expanse of territory stretching from the Savannah to the Mississippi. But of this region only a small por-



tion was actually settled and possessed by the citizens. Our lands beyond the Chattahoochee were known as our western lands, or Georgia's western territory.

It was a day of large land speculations. Robert Morris, known to us as the financier of the Revolution, invested his whole fortune in wild lands, owning at one time in western New York more acres than there are today in the whole state of Connecticut. James Wilson, another signer of the Declaration, and a Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, was another large land speculator. John Marshall, the eminent Chief Justice, and his brother had bought up the Lord Fairfax lands in western Virginia—a tract large enough for a kingdom. Many others had gone wild on the subject of buying up large bodies of lands and speculating upon them. It seemed to be the favorite way in which to invest fortunes. It amounted almost to a craze.

There were three different Acts passed by the Georgia legislature purporting to sell those lands. The first was in 1789, the sale being to foreign land companies, instead of to a company of Georgians, whose bid was rejected, although they offered a larger price. The Act required payment to be made in specie by a time, and the purchasers having failed to fully comply with their bid, the sale was not completed.

At the session of the legislature in November, 1794, held at Augusta, proposals were again made by several parties for the purchase of the western territory of Georgia. In narrating the passage of the bill through the legislature, and its final approval by the governor; the feeling it aroused over the state, and the passage by the subsequent legislatures of the Rescinding Act; and the dramatic spectacle of the burning of the records, I am using the account found in Bishop Stevens' History of Georgia.

The matter was referred to a joint committee of both houses. The majority reported in favor of a sale—and a bill was introduced to sell the lands to “The Georgia company,” “The Georgia-Mississippi Company,” “The Tennessee Company,” and “The Virginia Yazoo company.”

An amendment was proposed, adding to these “The Georgia Union Company” composed of General Twiggs, William Few, John Weareat, William Gibbons, Jr., *et al.*, who made certain proposals to the committee for a tract of land supposed to contain at least twenty-three million acres and for which they offered the sum of \$500,000.00.

The committee to whom was referred this last proposal reported “That an examination of the boundaries of the district proposed to be purchased by the above named gentlemen and their associates,

it appears to be composed of the two districts proposed to be purchased by the 'Georgia,' and the 'Georgia-Mississippi companies,' and no more! that the sum offered is \$90,000.00 greater than that offered by both the other companies; and that the new company proposes to reserve for the citizens double the amount indicated by the other companies; and they submit the advantages and disadvantages of each to the decision of the House."

The application of the Georgia Union Company, notwithstanding their larger offers and more liberal reserves, was however rejected.

Various amendments were offered to this bill by those opposed to this measure, but they were severally voted down by a steady and determined majority and the bill was passed and sent to the governor for his signature.

The governor vetoed it (the first time a Governor of Georgia had ever vetoed a bill), his objections being seven in number:

1st. The time had not arrived for disposing of the territory;

2nd: The sum offered is inadequate;

3rd: The quantity reserved for the citizens is too small;

4th: Greater advantages are secured to the purchasers than to the citizens;

5th: So large an extent of territory disposed of to individuals will create a monopoly and will retard settlement of the lands;

6th: One-fourth at least of the lands should be reserved for future disposal by the state;

7th: That if public notice were given that the lands were for sale, probably more would have been offered therefor.

Upon reading the Governor's veto message a Committee was appointed to confer with His Excellency. A conference was had, and without meeting by any means the more potent objection contained in his dissent, another bill was brought in with slight modifications. While the new bill was pending "The Georgia Union Company" again addressed a letter to each branch of the Legislature, enclosing proposals for purchasing the whole of the territory specified in the vetoed bill, and offering as considerations for the same "a deposit (by way of forfeiture) of \$40,000.00 in bills of exchange on Philadelphia, at double usance, with indisputable endorsers; to pay to the State the residue of the purchase money, amounting, in the whole, to \$800,000.00 on or before December 1, next; promising to reserve 4,000,000 acres to the State to be disposed of as this or a future Legislature shall direct, and also to reserve 4,000,000 for the citizens themselves.

Through the influence of the agent of the other companies, this proposition by which so many and greater advantages would come to the State, met with as little favor as their former petition. The Legislature goaded on by an outside pressure not easily withstood within three days after bringing in the old bill slightly modified, passed the same; the scruples of the too pliant Governor were overcome, and on the 7th of December the bill received his signature, and became the law of the land. And 35,000,000 acres were granted for \$500,000.00 or less than two cents per acre. The greatest real estate transaction in history.

It may well be supposed that such an act could not pass without calling out earnest remonstrance and decided opposition. Among the earliest remonstrants were Wm. H. Crawford and other citizens of Columbia county, who even before the bill was signed by the Governor, prayed that he would "negative the said bill in due form inasmuch as we do conceive it to be bad policy to give a grant to the company purchasing before the full amount of purchase money is paid; that if a grant should be given, the grantees may refuse to give a mortgage; and even if they should, it can only be foreclosed in that part of the State where the territory in question doth lie; and lastly, whenever the territory is sold,

the price would be greatly enhanced by giving notice to all the citizens."

This petition expressed the views of many citizens. Others objected to the bill because they were thereby to a great extent debarred from participating in the grand speculation of the several companies. Others, because they held that there was no necessity so urgent as to require this enormous sacrifice of territory; and others still because they saw in the bill only the legalizing of an immoral swindling scheme to rob the State of her invaluable lands for the benefit not of her citizens in general, but of a few bold and unscrupulous speculators who were willing to advance their own fortunes upon the ruin and dishonor of the State.

The people as soon as they heard of the passage of this bill and began to discuss its merits and understand its provisions, were aroused to a sense of the great injury which had been done to their own interests; and as there was developed to them, step by step, the various means and bribes and machinations which were set to work to bring over or buy over the several members of the legislature to vote for these measures, their indignation rose higher and higher, and vented itself in presentments of grand juries, in violent newspaper warfare, in stinging personal invective and insult, in threats of corporal vio-

lence and in scenes of actual bloodshed and death.

The whole state was heaving with excitement. The bribery which had been so openly used by men high in offices on the bench, at the bar, in the senate; and the corruption, intrigue, intimidation, and violence which had been employed to gain over the legislature to the plans of the speculators constitute a dark page in the political history of Georgia.

A new legislature was elected. Jared Irwin was chosen to succeed Governor Mathews. The house of representatives appointed a committee to examine and report respecting the validity and constitutionality of said act, etc.

The committee was composed of James Jackson, William Few, James Jones, John Moore, David Mitchell, James H. Rutherford, David Emanuel, ——— Frazier, and George Franklin.

This committee entered upon their duties with promptness and energy. They met indeed with many obstacles and were threatened with violence by the enraged advocates of the supplemental bill; but they were not the men to be intimidated by threats of assassins or turned aside from their duty by the impotent rage of those whose iniquities were recoiling upon their own heads.

On January 22, General Jackson, for the committee, reported that they were compelled to declare

that the fraud, corruption, and collusion by which the said act was obtained, evinced the utmost depravity in the majority of the last legislature; and they brought in a bill to rescind the act. The bill was passed by a vote of forty-four to three in the house, and fourteen to four in the senate and was concurred in by the Governor on February 13, 1796.

The first clause declared the act to be null and void:

The second clause orders the act to "be expunged from the face and indexes of the books of record of the State; and the enrolled law or usurped act shall then be publicly burnt, in order that no trace of so unconstitutional, vile, and fraudulent a transaction, other than the infamy attached to it by this law, shall remain in the office thereof."

The third clause declares that none of the laws, grants, deeds, respecting any contracts under the law, shall be admitted in evidence.

The fourth clause requires the return to the companies of the payments made by them to the State Treasurer.

The fifth clause asserts that to the State belongs the right of extinguishing the Indian title to the land.

The sixth clause requires this law to be promulgated by the Governor throughout the United States



in order to prevent frauds on individuals, so far as the nature of the case will admit.

On January 25, General Jackson, as Chairman of the investigating committee, reported to the house sundry affidavits "in the corruption practiced to obtain the Act," and by resolution of the house "all such proofs relating to the fraud and corruptions practiced to obtain the act for the disposal of the western territory" were to be entered in the Journal of the House "in order that the testimony so given may be perpetuated, as well for the satisfaction of the legislature and to show the grounds on which they proceeded as to hand down to future legislatures the base means by which the rights of the people were attempted to be bartered." Accordingly some twenty affidavits, showing more or less fraud, were spread on the Journals.

Two days after the Act was concurred in by the Governor, both branches of the Legislature adopted a report, presented by the Committee to whom was referred the mode by which the records were to be expunged of all traces of the described Act, and the Act itself burned, suggesting "that where it can possibly be executed without injury to other records, the same shall be expunged from the book of records, by cutting out the leaves of the book wherein the same may have been recorded; a memorandum there-

of expressing the number of pages so expunged, to be signed by the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to be countersigned by the Secretary and Clerk, which memorandum shall be inserted in the room or place of such expunged pages, in such manner as the President and Speaker may direct. That where records and documents are distinct and separate from other records, the same being of record shall be expunged by being burnt. That the enrolled bill, and usurped Act, passed on the 7th day of January, 1795, shall, in obedience to the Act of the present session, be burnt in the square, before the State House, in the manner following: A fire shall be made in front of the State House door, and a line to be formed by the members of both branches around the same. The secretary of state (or his deputy) with the committee shall then produce the enrolled bill and usurped Act among the archives of the State, and deliver the same to the President of the Senate who shall examine the same, and shall deliver the same to the Speaker of the House of Representatives for like examination; and the speaker shall then deliver them to the Clerk of the House of Representatives, who shall read aloud the title of the same, and shall then deliver them to the Messenger of the House, who shall then pronounce:

“ ‘God save the State! And Long Preserve Her Rights! And May Every Attempt to injure Them Perish, As These Corrupt Acts Now Do!’ ”

In conformity with this program, the House of Representatives the same day sent a message to the Senate informing that body that they were ready to receive them in the Representative Halls in order to proceed to the duty prescribed. The Senate proceeded to the Hall, and there facing the Representatives marched in procession to the spot selected, preceded by the committee bearing the prescribed bills in their hands. When they reached the spot the fixed program was carried out, and the Messenger, uttering the prescribed words, laid them on the fire, and the legislature stood in solemn circle around until the documents were burned to ashes.

Says Bishop Stevens, in his history of Georgia :

“The scene, aside from the circumstance that fire from heaven started the blaze, was sufficiently striking and impressive. The sudden revolution in public opinion in one year, by which the citizens so changed their views upon the subject of the western territory, was a marvelous reaction in the popular mind. The expunging from the records the acts and doings pertaining to the bill, the legislative procession, the solemn appeal to God by the Messenger who gave them to the flames and the stillness which

marked the few moments which it required to consume them, was a spectacle not only never beheld in Georgia before, but unknown to any assembly on this continent; and it indicated as nothing else could, the intense sense or indignation as the dishonor cast upon the state, and the equally intense desire to burn out the infamy, purifying as by fire the archives of the state from such fraud begotten records."

There is a slight tendency now, among modern writers, to minimize the "fraud" in the sale of Georgia's western lands, and to present the view that those who sold them for a mere song do not deserve the ill fame that has always attached to their conduct; and correspondingly, these latter-day writers rather make light of those men who in the name of the state repudiated that act. But no annalist of those times has produced a single person in life when the lands were sold, who justified that bargain, and all those who were living at the time and left to posterity their views on the subject, have condemned those who participated in the sale, and pictured as unselfish patriots those who exposed the fraud and who rescinded the act. Wilson Lumpkin, in his autobiography, Geo. P. Gilmer, in his "Georgians," Wm. Few, in his autobiography; Charlton, in his *Life of Jackson*; Hardin, in his *Life of Troup*; Chappel, in his *Miscellanies*; McCall, in his *History*; all these,

either themselves lived during those hectic days, or else came on shortly afterwards, and knew the men who were the actors in these scenes; and their voices are unanimous in the condemnation of those who participated in the sale of those lands and in the praise they bestow on James Jackson and his associates who the following year passed the rescinding act.

All honor to James Jackson! Soldier, legislator, United States senator and governor! He resigned his place in the senate of the United States and accepted a seat in the general assembly of Georgia in order to lead this fight. Where would we look for his counterpart? Whoever else resigned a place in the hall of ambassadors for one in the Georgia legislature? What could have been his motive except such as proceeds from a sense of duty? All honor to his name!

Would that we had an exact reproduction on canvas of the scene enacted here on the 15th day of February, 1796. Some one I know has attempted it. He may be sure that the goodly company stood under stately trees. Among them were the faithful David Emanuel, subsequently to serve as governor; and Peter Earle, brilliant congressman and judge and governor; and Benjamin Taliaferro, soldier, congressman and judge; and David Meriwether, many times a congressman after a brilliant service

in the Revolutionary army; and D. B. Mitchell, three times governor, and John Milledge, governor and United States senator, and Thomas Glascock, soldier and patriot; and Jared Irwin, warrior and statesman, and at this particular time, governor of the state; and William Few, mention of whom has already been made; and James Jackson. Doubtless the honor of actually drawing from heaven the fire that should be applied was conferred on James Jackson. Over there is the parchment. Surrounded by the governor, the senators, with fellow representatives, he extends his good right arm—that same arm that held the sword when at the head of his legion in the Revolutionary war. In his hand is the glass—the same hand with which he received the surrender of the city of Savannah when the British siege was ended. He holds the sun glass between the sun and the dishonored paper. The rays focus, the heat from the orb first warmed, then heated, then browned, then set fire to the paper. A blaze burst forth. To ashes turned the original act. The deed is done. The crime has been set at naught.

Was there cheering? Were the sombre countenances of the onlookers changed? History was made, and an event had taken place that was destined to be referred to as often as Georgia history is studied; and there was closed the most dramatic scene in our historic pages.

Did I say the scene was closed? Not so. Many of those who lobbied for the measure and who voted for it were by the force of public opinion literally driven out of the state. Many a brilliant career was cut short by participation in the Yazoo fraud. On every stump in Georgia, James Jackson and T. U. P. Charlton, David B. Mitchell, John Milledge, George M. Troup and William H. Crawford shouted from the housetops "Down with the Yazoo men"—and down they went to ignominy and to oblivion.

I said that history was made here at Louisville.

Referring to the statement in the Constitution of 1798, that no bill or ordinance shall pass containing any matter different from what is expressed in the title thereof, Chief Justice Lumpkin, in the case of *The Mayor and Alderman of the City of Savannah &c. vs. The State, &c.*, 4th Georgia, 26, 34, says:

"I would observe that the traditionary history of this clause is that it was inserted in the Constitution of 1798, at the instance of General James Jackson, and that its necessity was suggested by the Yazoo Act. That memorable measure of the 17th of January, 1795, as is well known, was smuggled through the Legislature under the Caption of An Act 'for the payment of late State troops' and a declaration in its title of the right of the State to the unappropriated territory thereof 'for the protection and sup-

port of its frontier settlements.' This was the first time a provision of that sort appeared in any Constitution. Today it is contained in the organic laws of every State in the Union, except a few States in the New England group, (McElrath, Section 75)."

What else affecting the course of history, grew out of the Act providing for the sale, and the Act rescinding the former Act?

The great case of *Fletcher vs. Peck* (6th Cranch, 87), decided by the Supreme Court of the United States, at the February Term 1810, decided that the rescinding Act was unconstitutional, ruling that a law, annulling conveyances, is a law impairing the obligation of contracts within the meaning of the Federal Constitution and therefore null and void; and *Fletcher against Peck*, a feigned issue, in all probability, tried first in a Massachusetts Court, was a history making decision—one of the great, outstanding landmarks of our jurisprudence—was brought about by the passage of the law rescinding the sale of our own Yazoo Lands. No other decision by that great Court has been cited oftener than has *Fletcher vs. Peck*.

Of this recision, Warren, in his history of the Supreme Court, (Volume 1, page 392) says:

"It aroused vivid and excited interest throughout the country and vitally affected the course of politi-



cal and economical history . . . not only was this the first case in which the Court held a State law unconstitutional, but it also involved legislation which had been the subject of bitter controversy and violent attack for over fifteen years in the State of Georgia and in the Congress of the United States."

The Yazoo Companies never obtained possession of the lands (Brown vs. Gilman, 4 Wheat, 255, 259).

They sold, or pretended to sell, to various persons, portions of these lands, who in turn pretended not to know of the fraud attending the sale and claimed to be innocent purchasers. They clamored for a settlement.

Finally, Georgia ceded in 1802 her lands west of the Chattahoochee to the Federal Government.

This placed within the sphere of the Federal authorities the whole problem of quieting the Yazoo claims.

"The owners of claims of the Yazoo lands petitioned Congress again and again for the enforcement of their rights, or at least for an equitable compromise, but nearly a decade passed without any substantial progress toward a settlement.

"President Jefferson thought that the claims were not valid, but that it would be good policy to arrange a compromise in order to avoid troublesome litigation in equity . . .

“John Randolph vigorously supported by Troup of Georgia and other Southerners, took the ground that any interference by the Central government in the matter would constitute an infraction of the rights of the State of Georgia. By this line of argument and by copious villification of the bribe-giving Yazoo speculators, Randolph caused congress to defer action year by year from 1804 to 1814.

“The judiciary remained as the only branch of the government from which the claimants might obtain assistance. The nationalist attitude of Chief Justice Marshall was well known, and his action could be foretold regarding the claims, if any litigation should bring them within his province. The holders of the Yazoo strip at length saw the futility of their routing petitions to congress, and adopted a scheme to obtain a declaration of the Supreme Court in favor of the validity of their claims. Accordingly, they made up the case of *Fletcher vs. Peck*, which was brought before the Court in 1809.”

(Phillips, in his “Georgia and State Rights”, pages 35, 36.)

“In view of the decision of the Supreme Court, Randolph’s majority in the House of Representatives diminished until in 1814, a Senate bill was concurred in which provided for a compromise with the

Yazoo claimants by appropriating five millions of dollars from the Treasury.”

(Phillips, page 37.)

Such in outline is the history of what we know as the Yazoo Fraud, and some of the things which followed in its wake.

What are the lessons we get out of it?

First, let us not be indifferent as to the character or intelligence of those in whom we place political power.

Second, let us be sure that righteous public opinion will in time punish those who are not faithful to their trust.

The bright page in our history, so far as this whole subject is concerned, is the way in which the public was aroused, and in which the public conscience was brought into action, and the fact that there were men ready to take up the fight for Georgia and to carry it to a successful conclusion. In that we can take pride, but pride in the past is a vague and empty thing unless we see in the panorama of dead days an incentive to future effort—unless we catch an inspiration therefrom that will impel us to emulate the great deeds of those who have gone before—unless we get therefrom a firm resolve to act nobly our part in the affairs about us—unless taking courage from their trials and problems and

success, we renew our faith in first principles, and re-dedicate our own lives to faithful and efficient and unselfish service to our State and to our fellowman.

You do well, Madam President and ladies, to mark this spot. You do well to commemorate the site of the first real capital of Georgia before whose doors were destroyed by fire the Yazoo Fraud papers. You do well to perpetuate the thought that no man and no set of men can be faithless to the trusts committed to them without in the end bringing down on their heads the shame of their contemporaries and the contempt of posterity.

Let the tablet stand for all time to turn men's attention to that dramatic scene enacted here on the fifteenth day of February, 1796, and with it the lessons that it teaches.—*The News and Farmer.*

# History of Jefferson County



## Jefferson's Part in the World War



“Take up our quarrel with the foe  
To you from falling hands we throw the torch  
Be yours to hold it high ;  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.”



## CHAPTER IV

### JEFFERSON COUNTY'S PART IN THE WORLD WAR

**S**TORIES of the past, songs of "Old, unhappy, far-off things and battles long ago," arouse emotions too deep for tears. The glories of the past are not dimmed by the sordidness of familiarity, and the every day things of life cannot detract from the heroes of old for "Charmed magic casements opening on the foam of perilous seas, in faery lands forlorn" seem more beguiling because they are among the distant, far-off things. Are we so modest that our generation can only find super-men in the past and heroes two generations removed?

Modesty suggests that Cour de Leon seems finer than Cooledge, and King Arthur a greater general than Pershing, but in our heart of hearts we know that all history will testify that the bravest soldiers and most gallant defenders are the boys of our generation, members of the American Expeditionary Forces.

Through the years Jefferson County has contributed her quota of stalwart sons for the defense of the nation. This section of the State is noted for its fearless fighters and big-hearted men, which is the prized heritage of the Old South. Such men were

first to offer themselves to their country when the freedom of the seas was questioned and when the ideals of self-government were involved. Making the world safe for democracy was no hollow phrase to the grandsons of men who, fifty years before, had died for State's Rights. Jefferson County boys hastened into service, offering to make that sacrifice that is old as jealousy and greed, and is the hostage demanded by the monster, War.

The World War occasioned more suffering to non-combatants and a greater death toll than any war in history; but God was good to the people of Jefferson County in that only a very small percentage of the men in uniform were killed.

Sergeant Ransom S. Rabun, whose home was near Wadley, was a victim of the World War. He served on the Mexican border in 1916, was later attached to Company M, 28th Infantry, First Division, A. E. F., with which unit he embarked for overseas service Jan. 14th, 1917. Was wounded in action and died in a field hospital near Soissons, France, as a result of his wounds July 21, 1918. The Jefferson County post American Legion is named for Sergeant Rabun who was first from the county to be killed in action.

Matthews, besides sending her quota of soldiers to the World War, honors the memory of one of her



bravest boys, Thomas Lewis Gay, who died from pneumonia in France, November 22, 1918. Avera also holds in tender love and honor the memory of Henry G. Irby, another hero who was a victim of that terrible scourge of the American Army camps, influenza, and died at Brest hospital, France, Oct. 7th, 1918.

James Adams, who made the supreme sacrifice May 27, 1918, was reared in Stapleton community. He was a direct descendant of George Stapleton, Sr. When the news of his death came, his mother, Mrs. Eason, wrote to the War Department for some token showing that it was really her son who was killed, and in reply she received a blood-stained letter, the last one she wrote to her boy, which was found on his body.

From the company of fine boys going out from Bartow, there was one who seemed to radiate cheer and brightness wherever he moved; perfect in physique, lovable in disposition, making friends with every one he met, Arlie Claxton was the ideal soldier and when, at the battle of Argonne Forest, October 14, 1918, he made the supreme sacrifice, Georgia and Jefferson added another hero to her already long list. A year later his body was returned, with hundreds of others to America, and sleeps in the family lot at Nails Creek Church.

Willie Roy Dereso was also from Bartow. His

home was in the country, but he was sent from this town into service in the World War, June 27, 1918. Embarked for overseas Sept. 14, 1918, contracted pneumonia at Portsmouth, England, and died Sept. 28, 1918, none the less a hero than if he had surrendered his life in battle.

Clifford Johnson was also a victim of the World War. The *Ontranto*, the vessel on which he was being shipped overseas, was wrecked off the coast of Ireland and he died a hero and martyr to the cause of freedom.

This was a terrible toll to pay. We shed tears for those who fell on the fields of France, those who died in the line of duty and we bow our heads and hearts in thanksgiving, that walking our streets and doing a man's work in the world are surviving heroes whom it is our privilege to see and know and call our friends.

As the year 1918 wore toward a weary close the number of Service Stars in Jefferson County homes increased. Younger boys went into service and the family sewed one more blue star on the white field of the Service Flag and re-hung it proudly in the window of the home. In several homes a blue star was replaced by a gold star for a son killed in France. This period was the most trying for the family of the enlisted men. Every day brought news of death and disaster. German guns were

always booming and the contending armies were close together. There was never a doubt of the ultimate outcome of the conflict, but the terrible price of victory seemed appalling, particularly to the wives and mothers at home.

No account of the war could be even briefly given without a tribute to the folks at home who were largely responsible for the unbroken morale of men in service. The women knitted socks and sweaters, rolled bandages, bought Liberty Bonds, gave to Y. M. C. A. drives and wrote newsy, cheerful letters. At ten o'clock every night in Louisville the electric lights were cut off for one minute's silent prayer for the boys at the front. A deeper spirituality was manifest throughout the county, and this tended to bring the people closer together. Overseas mail was, in a way, common property and news of neighborhood boys was read with greatest interest. In response to Woodrow Wilson's proclamation a day of prayer was observed (May 30th) during the long German drive in the year 1918.

Jefferson County people donated over fourteen thousand dollars to the United War Work in 1918, which was far over the quota set for the county. The quota for every war drive for Louisville and the county was carried well over the top by the folks at home. The spirit as well as the letter of the law was observed in food conservation and wheatless,

meatless, sugarless meals were the rule. Hon. J. R. Phillips, of Louisville, was a "Dollar a year" man, so designated by Hon. Herbert Hoover to plan and execute food conservation in this section of the State.

A token of patriotism manifest during the war, and one to which the town people point with pride, was the fact that every man in Louisville volunteered for war duty before the selective draft went into effect and not a person from Louisville was drafted.

The Red Cross did a splendid work. Money was raised again and again. Hours were spent in rolling bandages, cutting surgical garments and in sewing in any way that was presented. Meetings were held in the Court House every week and boxes of bandages shipped to Red Cross headquarters. The people spared neither time, money nor energy. This time spent every week was in a way an humble contribution to the great cause, but we must remember that "they also serve who only stand and wait". A wonderful spirit was manifest by the people. A glorious light of unselfish patriotism glowed in the hearts of the brave boys in the khaki uniforms and the same flame burned in the hearts of those who kissed them and sent them forth to fight that government of the people, by the people, and for the people should not perish from the earth.







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